

Hafa Adai!

PSS, NMTI ink accord to train future NMI workforce. PAGE 6
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75¢

Saipan Tribune

Okeanos Marianas arrives

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

After an epic journey of 4,022 miles from Auckland, New Zealand, and guided only by the stars, the double-hulled *Okeanos Marianas* finally arrived on Saipan yesterday morning and was met by a platoon of

dancers, dignitaries, island officials, and people who want to revive the navigating culture of the islands.

At approximately 8:30am, the eight-person *Okeanos Marianas* vessel pulled into the Susupe shore by the *Guma Sakman* near the Civic Center in Susupe and were met with

See OKEANOS on Page 4

The double-hulled *Okeanos Marianas* vessel arrives at the Susupe Beach by the *Guma Sakman* at 8:30am yesterday after traveling 4,022 miles from Auckland, New Zealand to Saipan in just 40 days. The *Guma Sakman* (canoe house) is located at the Civic Center Beach in Susupe across Marianas High School.

See more photos on Page 2

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Woman killed in knife attack

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A woman was killed while her husband was seriously injured when their tenant allegedly attacked them with a kitchen knife outside their house beside Lao Mart along Texas Road in Chalan Kanoa Sunday night.

The 52-year-old Filipino woman, who was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center, had multiple stab wounds, according to acting police spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong.

Sources identified the victim as Josefina Pineda, who used to work as operations



ASIA

President Rodrigo Duterte said someone should talk to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

PAGE 15

- » Woman's husband seriously injured
- » Suspect is victim's tenant
- » Witness manages to take video of commotion, bloodied victim

See WOMAN on Page 4

INSIDE



WORLD

Many in Girona cheered Catalan's declaration of independence from Spain.

PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE

"Thor: Ragnarok" is being touted as a different take on the God of Thunder.

PAGE 19



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Taitano missing since Thursday

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A woman has been reported missing since Thursday. Police found her car yesterday in Marpi but there were no signs of the missing woman.

The police are pursuing all leads to locate Joan L. Taitano, chair of the Protection



- » Car found abandoned by radar building in Marpi

and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Program advisory council and vice

chair of the State Behavioral Health Council.

Acting police spokesman Lt. Jason Tarkong appealed to the public yesterday for help in locating the 37-year-old Taitano, who is also a board member of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc.

Tarkong said that Taitano's white

See TAITANO on Page 4

USCIS: CW-1 limit may be expected this week

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may set the CW-1 cap limit this week.

According to USCIS public affairs officer Arwen Fitzgerald, who han-

» White House investigates CNMI economy

dles USCIS matters in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, the agency hopes the limit would be set within this week.

"We are waiting for the *Federal Register* notice for the fiscal year

2018 CW-1 cap limit to be signed and released," he said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Separately, a statement from the Office of the Governor yesterday

See USCIS on Page 4



GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Okeanos Marianas arrives

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Rafaluwasch Warriors of the Carolinian community and the Chamorro Warriors of the *Simiyan Ma-nai-anita* perform a traditional welcoming chant as the *Okeanos Marianas* crew arrives at the Susupe beach yesterday morning.



Community members carry master navigator Peia Patai into the Susupe beach shore yesterday morning after his arrival on the *Okeanos Marianas*.



Master navigator Peia Patai, left, is met with traditional Carolinian ornaments yesterday morning after his arrival on the *Okeanos Marianas*.



Andrea Carr, left, is met with a warm hug by family members yesterday morning after her arrival on the *Okeanos Marianas*.



Emma Perez, Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport Ltd. managing director, gives a hug of appreciation to master navigator Sesario Sewralur during the arrival ceremony for the *Okeanos Marianas* yesterday morning.



Carolinian Affairs Office executive director John Tagabuel gives a warm welcoming hug to master navigator Peia Patai during the arrival ceremony of the *Okeanos Marianas* yesterday morning.



Crispin Ogo, acting resident executive of the Indigenous Affairs Office, gives a short speech in behalf of the indigenous people of the Marianas yesterday during the arrival ceremony for the *Okeanos Marianas*.



Saipan Mayor David Apatang poses for a photo with Andrea Carr, one of the voyagers aboard the *Okeanos Marianas* during the canoe's arrival ceremony yesterday morning.



The voyagers aboard the *Okeanos Marianas* are seated on the ceremonial stage yesterday morning after their arrival at the Guma Sakman.



The Chamorro Warriors perform a traditional benediction during the arrival ceremony for the *Okeanos Marianas* yesterday morning.

Zoning board approves new bed-&-breakfast



By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Zoning board has approved the application of JKB Corp. to open a bed-and-breakfast in Chinatown, Saipan. The proposed B&B will occupy an existing two-story building with 15 units.

Remy Sablan, a resident in the same neighborhood, expressed support for the project, not only to ease problems with accommodations on island but in the hope that it will also lead to repairs in the road in Chinatown.

"This is another chance for visitors to have a place to stay on island. I read in the newspapers that there is a lack of accommodations on island and this is an answer to that need," she said. "Also, this property is right behind my house in Chinatown and the road is very bad. Hopefully, if this company is given the opportunity to operate, they will also fix the road so the people living around the area will benefit from the improvement of the road. Sadly, our mayor or the Department of Public Works are not able to fix the

roads and I hope this company would go the extra mile to fix the road."

The board approval comes with conditions. Board treasurer Mariano Taitano said that JKB Corp. must follow CNMI law and pay the hotel occupancy tax.

Another applicant that wants to open a guesthouse in Sadog Tasi withdrew its application halfway into its presentation at the public hearing to make some revisions in its plans to comply with the parking requirements of the Zoning staff and board.

Other approved applications at the public hearing held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe were B&K dba Mariana Breeze and Colour Palace Inc.

B&K is owned by Sunbong Chang. The business is into processing distilled wines and liqueurs for retail and wholesale and the property is located in Gualo Rai.

Colour Palace wants to occupy an existing building and convert it into a warehouse. Jeffrey San Nicolas, administrative officer of CPI, said the warehouse will be used to store general business goods. The property is located along Isa Drive on Capital Hill.

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Applicant Mariana Breeze owner Sunbong Chang talks about her business at the Zoning board public hearing held last Oct. 26 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

BEA CABRERA

Probable cause is found vs man accused of dousing gas on his GF

Probable cause was found yesterday to charge a 23-year-old man of pouring gasoline on his girlfriend and setting fire to their house.

At a preliminary hearing, the court found it probable that John Pitig Teregeyo may have committed the crimes of attempted first-degree murder, arson, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace—all related to domestic violence.

Assistant attorneys general Teri Tenorio and Frances Demapan, counsel for the government, moved to dismiss one count of domestic violence: assault with a dangerous weapon. Chief Pub-

lic Defender Douglas Hartig, counsel for Teregeyo, did not object.

Teregeyo will be arraigned on Nov. 6, 2017.

The alleged victim told police that she and Teregeyo were having an argument in the house's bedroom when Teregeyo went outside, brought in a container filled with gasoline, and spilled it around the entrance of the bedroom, inside the bedroom, and on her body last Oct. 20.

She said Teregeyo also choked her and pushed her, causing her to fall. He then allegedly shoved a shirt in her mouth. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

HPO is burglarized over weekend

The Historical Preservation Office was burglarized over the weekend, resulting in the loss of one of the office's vehicles and more.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter related the incident in a posting on Facebook.

According to Hunter's post, the burglars managed to get past the office's steel gate and were able to pry a metal window set that was three feet deep in concrete to allow them access into the office.

The burglars managed to get away with one of the vehicles belonging to the office and loaded the vehi-

cle with bush cutters, chainsaws, and more.

The burglars also ransacked the office destroying many of the office's means of security like doors, drawers, and security cameras.

According to Hunter, damages are still being assessed and the perpetrator has yet to be caught.

Individuals who may have any information on the whereabouts of the missing vehicle or stolen items that may lead to the perpetrator may call the HPO at 664-2120 or the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs at 664-2584.

(*Kimberly A. Bautista*)

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WOMAN*From Page 1*

husband as Tony Barit, also known as Abet or Ambet.

Tarkong said the suspect, Alfonso S. Parongan, 55, a Filipino male, was arrested by police. He had attempted to hide in the jungle area behind the victims' residence.

Tarkong said that police responded to a reported stabbing incident near Lao Mart in Chalan Kanoa on Sunday at

7:56pm, and learned that there were two victims.

Medics of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services did chest compressions on Pineda while transporting her and her husband to CHC's emergency room.

Tarkong said the preliminary investigation showed that Parongan and Pineda had an argument.

Parongan then stabbed Pineda with a knife, causing fatal injuries.

Parongan then chased Barit and stabbed him with the knife, causing serious injuries.

Tarkong said that witnesses were able to stop the incident and Parongan ran away.

A witness told *Saipan Tribune* that the argument happened in front of Parongan's room in the victims' compound. Parongan has been renting/staying in a room that used to be a storage room.

The witness said that Pineda had asked Parongan to pay a power bill.



A police officer investigates the crime scene along Texas Road in Chalan Kanoa, where a husband and wife were stabbed by their tenant with a kitchen knife last Sunday night. The wife was killed, while her husband was seriously injured.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



A witness points to the area where Alfonso S. Parongan allegedly fatally stabbed Josefina Pineda with a kitchen knife in a compound along Texas Road in Chalan Kanoa on Sunday night. Parongan also allegedly attacked and seriously injured Pineda's husband with a knife.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

TAITANO*From Page 1*

2016 Toyota Yaris was recovered by police near the radar building in Marpi. He said there were no signs of Taitano and she remains missing.

A source said patrol police found the car abandoned on the pavement right by the radar yesterday after lunch.

The car was locked but there were no signs of Taitano, the source said.

Tarkong said that police met with Taitano's relative in Garapan on Sunday at 3:15pm. The relative had notified police that Taitano was last seen Thursday night at her house in Dandan.

She was reportedly last seen wearing a plain white T-shirt, a pair of blue short

pants, and slippers. She is described as 5'3" tall, with shoulder length dark hair, and about 180 to 190 lbs.

Taitano used to work as a *Saipan Tribune* reporter.

Anyone who has information about Taitano may also call the NMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

Meanwhile, police could still not find assistant public defender Jamal A. Saleh,

who has been missing since last Oct. 3.

Police said the 49-year-old Saleh could not sleep and went for a walk from his apartment unit in As Teo at 1:30am.

Saleh is an Arab/Indian native. He and his girlfriend, assistant public defender Shoshanah Epstein, arrived on Saipan from New Mexico last May to work at the Office of the Public Defender.

USCIS*From Page 1*

suggested that a possible White House investigation is the cause for the delay in setting the CW-1 limit for the fiscal year 2018, one month well into the fiscal year.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista told *Saipan Tribune* that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres was informed in early October 2017 that USCIS had proposed a "substantial reduction" for the fiscal year 2018 CW-1 limit.

The fiscal year 2017 CW-1 limit was set at 12,998. The fiscal year prior's CW-1 limit was at 12,999.

He added that Torres was informed that the "substantial" reduction was due to the language in Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) H.R. 339, as well as Congress' outdated un-

employment figures.

"In response to this information, governor [Torres] spoke with the White House and the deputy chief of staff of the President and the White House Intergovernmental Affairs Office to request their assistance on behalf of the CNMI people," said Bautista.

"During governor's trip to [Washington] D.C., he met with the Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, the White House, and USCIS to bring forward the economic harm a dramatic reduction would bring to the CNMI economy in this time-frame, as well as the many efforts done by the local government and the private sector to recruit, hire, and train U.S. workers," he said, adding that Torres continues to pursue "all avenues to advocate on behalf of the CNMI" on this issue.

According to Bautista, the

"substantial reduction," in which the amount was not specified, was possibly brought about by the White House looking into the CNMI economy.

"This is appreciated and, in the longer term, beneficial for the continuation of our economic growth and providing opportunities to our citizens. The governor is thankful for the response and time given to him by the Trump administration to hear our needs and appreciates the attention our concerns have received from President Trump and his staff," said Bautista, adding that Torres remains "hopeful" that the CNMI economic

growth and efforts to address concerns brought by "differing parties" allow the continuation of economic progress.

"The goal of the administration continues to be the development of the local capacity within our workforce to meet

the needs of our economy and the mandates of Public Law 110-229, but simultaneously advocate for the CNMI in ensuring our federal partners in Washington, D.C. understand that our economic growth and job opportunities for U.S. workers relies on the access and presence of foreign workers," said Bautista.

In a separate statement from Sablan, he believes that the CW-1 limit should only be reduced by one, just as the previous two fiscal years.

"My position is that the 2018 cap should go down by one—just one—to 12,997," he said.

"That would be the safest decision for the Northern Marianas economy right now," said Sablan, adding that he would "not speculate on why the Trump administration has not yet made a decision" on the fiscal year 2018 CW-1 cap.

The ceremony also celebrated the safe voyage of the crew aboard the *Okeanos Marianas*. The crew included Steven Tawake from Fiji, Maurai Villa from France, India Tabellini from Italy, Deirdre Golani from the United States, and John Sablan, Devin Noison, and Andrea Carr of the Northern Marianas.

A visibly overwhelmed Perez said she was moved to tears upon her realization that the *Okeanos Marianas* had finally arrived on Saipan after awaiting its arrival for so long.

According to Perez, the *Okeanos Marianas* will change the lives of the people of the Marianas.

L.J. Castro, chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council and an advocate of the indigenous culture, said the arrival of the *Okeanos Marianas* means a great deal to the Marianas.

"It's a very significant ca-

cellphone of the commotion and of the bloodied Barit. Police took the witness' cellphone for evidence.

Police recovered the knife at the scene.

Neighbors described Pineda as a very nice person and Barit as an expert in repairing boats.

OKEANOS*From Page 1*

no arrival because of the purpose of the vessel. It's going to benefit the education of our youth and our people about traditional seafaring but also it's going to help in assisting our residents of the Northern Islands," said Castro.

Carr, who joined the voyage, left for New Zealand late last August to assist in the construction of the canoe. According to her, the voyage was intense at times due to the unpredictability of nature. "As long as we respect the ocean and the sky, we'll be okay. ... It was a great experience," she said.

One of Carr's biggest takeaways from being a part of the 4,000-mile voyage was that becoming an ocean navigator requires quick thinking.

[Patai] made some spur-of-the-moment decisions which I really appreciated because without those decisions, we could have been in danger. My takeaway was to always listen and be mindful of what's going on around you," said Carr.

Patai said the biggest challenge he and his crew faced in their 40-day voyage to the Marianas was the weather condition slowing them down.

"We tried our best to be here. [We're] a couple of days late but it's okay because everyone is fine and safe," he said.

One of Patai's personal challenges was getting accustomed to his new crew. "It was tough, especially working with different cultures," he said.

According to Patai, the shared bond they each had with the ocean helped, especially while teaching them the ways of seafaring. "North and south, it does not matter. We are people of the oceans and it makes it easy to teach them how to sail," Patai said.

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PSS, NMTI ink accord to train future NMI workforce

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A memorandum of agreement that aims to provide the "best education and opportunities" to graduating high school students was inked yesterday between the Public School System and the Northern Marianas Trade Institute.

John Oliver Gonzales, who chairs the NMTI board, described the moment as a milestone for both PSS and NMTI.

"Today's signing with the CNMI State Board of Education demonstrates that NMTI is finally at a level where we are ready to accommodate their students, primarily in the high school category which is 9th grade up to senior," said Gonzales. "Our next stage is to go down to the next level, junior high school, because we believe in starting them young in being efficient, effective, and responsible about their future."

That begins with working on the whole cohorts of the program with the Public School System and teachers in the next few weeks.



BEA CABRERA

From left, Board of Education vice chair Janice Tenorio, Northern Marianas Technical Institute board chair John Oliver Gonzalez, BOE chair Marylou S. Ada, and NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres have their picture taken after the signing of a memorandum of agreement yesterday at the Board of Education conference room on Capitol Hill.

"We already started with Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Marianas High School with auto mechanic, culinary arts, and construction crafts. Great things are ahead of us," Gonzales added.

NMTI chief executive offi-

cer Agnes McPhetres said the agreement is an authorization for PSS and NMTI to work together and set objectives for common goals.

"Our goal is to work with the curriculum department in the school system to see how we can have a seamless transition and identify changes that are needed in terms of graduation requirements for students who cannot go the academic route, which we will present to the [PSS] board."

"This will actually lessen the [number of] drop outs," McPhetres said.

Also, it won't force those who do not want to pursue the academic route and lessen the number of students repeating grade levels, she added.

Also, it would be the best response for students that are looking at working immedi-

ately after high school.

"This agreement will open a real opportunity for students who want to learn skills, and who want to work immediately after high school. We will teach them to have the skills that will prepare them," she said. "Our program is not only about preparing students, we are also put them in job trainings like internships."

McPhetres boasted that NMTI graduates have a high rate of employment.

"Ninety-eight percent of those people that we placed in businesses are hired before they could even complete their internship. For those students that may not be able to have that opportunity to go to college, our doors are open," she added.

McPhetres wants to eradicate the stigma associated with taking up a vocational course.

"The major problem that we are encountering right now is the idea that taking up a vocational course is for the 'dummies.' Our students have not realized the merit of what it is to have a skill. To be an electrician can mean that you don't need to work for somebody because you can have your own business."

"The certificates that we give our graduates are recognized in the U.S. mainland. In the event all these students pass the credentials and go to the mainland, they'll be making salaries of \$19, \$20, or \$26 an hour because of that skill. That's how valuable skills are," she added.

McPhetres said they are also looking at the apprenticeship component where the private sector will be a part of the educational process and curriculum because they offer good inputs such as what

types of trainings are needed to help raise the economy.

"I also want our leaders and community to understand that we are not going to be training laborers. We are training students to be specialists. We don't want our graduates to work for somebody to do hammering. We want our students to know about electrical and know about plumbing and carpentry," she said.

"After the foreign workforce is finished with a project, we can send them back home and let our students or graduates take over by maintaining and refining it because they are the ones who are going to be here," McPhetres added.

Gonzales said the signing of the MOA is timely because of the recent passage of Senate Bill 20-21. The bill recognizes the need to change NMTI's status from being a private non-profit school into a public career and technical training institution.

"Senate Bill 20-21 was unanimously passed in the Senate, without any challenge or dissenting vote. It is now down to the House and we are hoping that the same sentiment and blessing we have from the Senate will be the same in the House," he said.

"It's a win-win situation for all the stakeholders—our leaders, private sector, corporate partners, and especially our students and residents—so we can truly authenticate and say we recognize the issue and, most importantly, we should seize the opportunities because only by working together can we achieve great things ahead of us," he added.

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THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAUOLIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN SABLÁN
DIRECTOR, P&S

CNMI SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 670-664-4750
Website: www.cnmischolarship.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Scholarship Board of Directors is hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular board meeting on Monday, November 06, 2017 at 11:00 am on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CNMI Scholarship Office Conference Room.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
- V. Old Business
 - a. FY '18 Budget
 - b. Commonwealth Workers' Funds
- VI. New Business
 - a. Commonwealth Workers' Funds Grant proposal reviews
 - b. New CSO Program SY2017/18
 - i. Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)
 - ii. High Achiever Travel Aid (HATA)
 - iii. AY2017/18 Award Amounts
 - iv. T.R.A.I.N.
 - c. WICHE Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) Healthcare Fields
- VII. Executive Session
- VIII. CSO Director Updates
- IX. Announcements & Next Meeting Date
- X. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Geralyn C. Dela Cruz, Chairwoman

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950-1055
Tel.: (670) 236-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-18
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2017 TIME: 2:00 p.m.
"LEASE AND IMPROVEMENT OF ECHO DOCK"
PORT OF SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 29, 2017.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND THREE (3) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: CONFIDENTIAL "LEASE AND IMPROVEMENT OF ECHO DOCK (RFP-001-18)". PROPOSERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS PROPOSAL. ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED AT THE CPA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR OF THE ARRIVAL TERMINAL BY OCTOBER 31, 2017 AT 2:00 P.M..

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: 9/27/17

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FROM DEVELOPERS

(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DATE: March 08, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC RFP 2017-008 "GARAPAN ANNEX PROPERTIES"

Proposal packets will be available on Monday, November 06, 2017, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, money order or cashier's check payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIA 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference is scheduled on Friday, December 01, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. Only those individuals who have paid the RFP Package Fee are allowed to attend the pre-proposal conference. All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, Saipan, fax to (670)234-9021, no later than Friday, December 01, 2017, 4:30 p.m. local time.

For more information, contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, at (670) 234-6866/9447 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Ignacio L. Perez
Board Chairman

/s/
Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

**FAM TOUR**

Travel agents from Japan experience off-roading with Marianas Trekking on Saipan on Oct. 15, 2017, as part of a familiarization tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Delta Air Lines.

MVA

Cruz: Public hearing on cannabis measure attracts high attendance

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Senate committee that attended the public hearing on the proposed cannabis legalization and regulation bill last Monday were surprised at the public support shown for the bill, with one believing it to be the “most attended public hearing” in his tenure at the Senate.

It was the second public hearing on Sen. Sixto Igisomar’s (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-62 SD1 and was held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian), who attended the public hearing as vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law, told *Saipan Tribune* that 50 members of the public signed up for the public hearing while over 20 testified.

“I was overwhelmed [with the number] of people [on Monday]. We rarely see so much participants,” said Cruz.

The public hearing for S.B. 20-62 on Monday was held to obtain public comments on the regulation and legalization of cannabis in the CNMI.

Members of the Senate JGL Committee—Sens. Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan), Teresita Santos (R-Rota), Cruz, and Igisomar—attended. Committee chair Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota) was unable to attend.

The bill’s author, Igisomar, believes the bill looked “promising” and was also astonished at the overwhelming public support his bill has garnered.

“There were a lot more [members of the] public compared to the previous public hearing and the public hearing two years ago for SB 19-6. This is the largest with respect to any public hearings that the Senate has held that I’ve been

on, at least,” said Igisomar.

Although many comments were submitted, Igisomar took note of a few who fear that legalizing marijuana would endanger the health of minors whose brains have yet to be fully developed and make the drug more accessible.

Igisomar pointed out, though, that one of his bill’s goals is to hinder minors from securing marijuana easily.

“If we actually go far [and this bill becomes law], we would continue to promote our duties as parents to teach our children to stay off any form of drugs,” he said.

One of two who opposed the passage of the bill last Monday was Kristo Rai Parish’s Rev. Fr. Ken Hezel.

Hezel argued that marijuana affects the development of the brain and can be harmful, especially since the human brain is not fully developed until the age of 21.

“This is why this [bill] is an adult policy. This [bill] is really a policy for adults aged 21 and up,” he said, citing comments of Dr. John Doyle who last Monday also supported the bill.

Santos, who was also at the public hearing last Monday, said that while majority of the public supported the bill, there were also many recommendations on SB 20-62.

One of that included “conducting public education” prior to allowing the electorates to vote on the bill during next year’s general election, among many other recommendations.

The Office of the Attorney General has already raised a concern that the bill does not conform to standard process on how a bill or initiative becomes law, which could possibly make it illegal. The Legislature, or Senate committee, has yet to comment on this.


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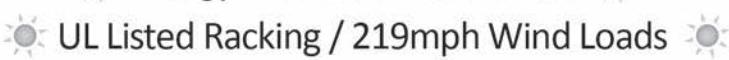
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Call: 233-4673

Unleash your creative superpowers with NaNoWriMo



One part writing boot camp, one part rollicking party, National Novel Writing Month, more popularly known as NaNoWriMo, celebrates its 19th year of encouraging creativity, education, and the power of the imagination through the largest writing event in the world.

According to Wikipedia, NaNoWriMo is an annual, Internet-based creative writing project that takes place during the month of November. Participants attempt to write a 50,000-word manuscript between Nov. 1 and Nov. 30.

This year, NaNoWriMo expects over 400,000 people—including over 70,000 K-12 students and educators on our Young Writers Program website—to start a 50,000-word novel in the month of November.

Throughout the month, they'll be guided by this year's theme: Superpowered Novelizing.

"NaNoWriMo ignites people's superheroic creative powers every year by empowering them to write their stories. It takes courage, grit, resilience—and wild imagi-

native leaps—to write 50,000 words of a novel in a month. Our stories save us from villainous forces that we encounter every day. Our stories determine the future of our world," said Grant Faulkner, executive director of NaNoWriMo.

Last year, NaNoWriMo welcomed 384,126 participants, in 646 different regions, on six continents. Of these, more than 34,000 met the goal of writing 50,000 words in a month.

This year, participants will be inspired by weekly "pep talks" penned by published authors, including Roxane Gay, Kevin Kwan, Julie Murphy, and Grant Faulkner. NaNoWriMo will also provide participants access to mentorship from authors including Emily X.R. Pan, Mur Lafferty, and Jasmine Guillory.

This is the 12th year of the Young Writers Program, which brings NaNoWriMo's unique style of creative writing into classrooms. The YWP helps young writers—participating both in classrooms and independently—set individualized word-count goals and divide their work into daily, achievable milestones.

"NaNoWriMo gives kids a

crazy task, but a real, authentic one: tell your story, whatever story matters to you. It

doesn't matter how you tell it, just that you get it out into the world. Students, even those

who thought they hated writing, get invested. It becomes the best part of their day. By the end of the month, they've worked hard, developed con-

fidence and new skills, and have their very own novel to show off!" says Marya Brennan, Young Writers program director. (PR)



CLUB 200

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. underwriters Keomi Palacios and Dana Marie Manglona have their picture taken at this year's American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's Club 200 event at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HONOR ROLL

Mount Carmel School congratulates these students for making it to the school's 1st Quarter President's List & Honor Roll:

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.

1ST GRADE:

Asai, Ryusei
Barcina, Donray Abholmwar
Camacho, David Joseph
Dandan, Nea
Dela Cruz, Elijah
Deleon Guerrero, Bella Reese
Fejera-Borja, Mischa Nicole
Mendoza, Miguel Garret
Muna, Destiny Margarita
Obnimaga, Zian Michael
San Nicolas, Jaze Enzo
Sasamoto, Gonshiro Pedro
Takanobu, Komiko Aureen
Tenorio, Kainoa
Torres, Hunter

2ND GRADE:

Demapan, Isabella Soledad
Hwang, Katherine
Kim, Do Geon
Larson, Kayla
Maratita, Francisco
Melchor, Remigem
Mitchell, Gabriel Seth
Niric, Dylan
Palacios, Layla Carmen
Pangelinan, Jadine Nicole
Quitugua, Aubrey Rae
Santos, Aya
Villagomez, Cecilia Ramon

3RD GRADE:

Ano, Wayne Dominic
Camacho, Kesiil Diaz
Castro, Christine Rosanne
Concepcion, Jeffrey

Dela Cruz, Christopher James
Gragasin, Justin Andrei
Guerrero, Patrick
Lansangan, Leah Michel
Matsumoto, Naomi Skye
McQuay, Hope
McQuay, Maya
Melchor, Sarah Angela
Propst, Kaden Christian
Quimsing, Althea Loryn
Reyes, Frank Anthony
Sasamoto, Enzo Umeki
Sasamoto, Hiromi Rosa
Tengco, Angel
Tenorio, Jose Clarence
Tomokane, Pedro Jose
Torres, Jupri

4TH GRADE:

Buenafior, Oscar Bien
Cano, William Matthew
Dela Santa, Heleyna Frielle
Lansangan, Lexi Marie
Manning, Kai
Matsumoto, Ayanna Faith
Tenorio, Jessiana

5TH GRADE:

Cabrera, Margaret
Camacho, Irie Kane
Castro, Kenneth
Chang, Jada
Clark, Nathaniel
Kautz, Claire Regina
Kim, Irene
Mallari, Audrein Jennifer
Mallari, Laizza Vianca
Nicholas, Jalen
Palacios, Tricia Antonnette
Peter, Maili
Reyes, Chelsey Anne
Sablan, Kiana Cecilia
Santos, Dylan
Sasamoto, Hitomi Rosa

6TH GRADE:

Steele, Lyssa Rae
Tenorio, Malina Rose
Toskas, Ari James
Youn, Brian

Guerrero, Ruben Antonio
Hong, Joey
Kim, Hailey
Propst, Devin Jordan
Sablan, Andrew
San Nicolas, Earle Gabrel
Torres, Maria

7TH GRADE:

Baldazo, Keehara Nielsen
Cabrera, Kyla Monique
Green, Lynzey
Kiser, Renee
Mallari, Jill Anne Marie
Oh, Eric
Ortizo, Brent Matthew
Pangelinan, Manuel
Jacinto
Peter, Kayannie
Sablan, Mathew Adrian
Sasamoto, Yurihana Rosa
Sohn, John

8TH GRADE:

Aldave, Lynette Anne
Alvarez, Robin Kyle
Bucalig, Fiona Marielle
Cruz, Larry Dean
Diaz, Jeremiah Jerome
Duenas, Monique Laura
Lacap, Hannah
Mendiola, Alleah Marie

9TH GRADE:

Avendano-Woodruff, Katherine
Ayuyu, Maria
Cepeda, Sinahi Ray
Cruz, Trinity
Cunanan, Nathanael Ryne
Galang, Aldraine Angelo
Gatmaitan, Xavier
Hunter, Brandee C.
Mendoza, Mikee Mame
Poon, Skyler
Quilantang, Jeanine Arianne
Salvador, Vince Philip
San Nicolas, John Isaac
Torres, Judy Tivana
Youn, Brian

10TH GRADE:
Borja, Kalea Lou
Rabang, Katelyn
Yamagata-Santos, Danielle Jaden

11TH GRADE:

Batusin, Aldwin Ray
Bobadilla, Jan Emmanuel Chinen, Quincylen Mikaela Cho, Hyo Lim Han, Louisa Sa Kiser, Eric Lee, Seo Yeon Leong, Giselle Ivy Macaranas, Dayna Lou Manese, Angelo Gabriel Moran, Matt Jason Ocampo, Justin Gerald Pangelinan, Rosalia Francine Paraiso, Joanie Ramirez, Reica Juel Sato, Karen

12TH GRADE:

Castro, Viveka Rose Heo, Paul Kim, Heechan Kim, Min Jung Lee, Jae Hee (Herald) Leon Guerrero, Christiana Zita Lim, Nathanael Mafnas, Shana Marie Melchor, Jeff Matthew Mendiola, Erika Marie Palacios, Michelle Torres, Cassidy Toskas, Jonelle Gwyneth Usi, Monica Villacrusis, Geuel Christian Villagomez, Jehnifer Luise Yun, Seok Jun Zheng, Theresa

HONOR ROLL

Students must have a GPA of 3.66 or above and must not have any behavior grade of U or N.

1ST GRADE:
Bamba, Sean Matthew Camacho, Daniel Macaranas, Nico-Lahi Rangamar, Bwilitowpi Agelu

2ND GRADE:

Arriola, Janessa Francine T. Cabrera, Kimason Camacho, Maiyah Michelle Chen, Jessis Flores, Cassidee Jolina Ha, Ye Lynn Inos, Gabriella Pangilinan, Cyril Michael Remilloza, Andrea Fhe Sablan-Wilson, Liam Sablan, Nick Jesse Sheu, Julius Tagabuel, Arstin Itbwulschigh Zhao, Sophie

3RD GRADE:

Ansus, Hanz Renen Calvo, Michael Espiritu, Curt Lars Joseph Jung, Maya Jae Kim, Byulah Mallari, Justin Pangilinan, Nicole Angela Sasamoto, Yukiko Kiyomi Villagomez, Sage Ramon Wesley, Aiden Manuel

4TH GRADE:

Arreza, Annieskha Backe, Asa Vanessa Kim, Chae Eun Maratita, Elise Mendoza, Mikaela Paige Ogo, Therese Pangelinan, Camron Zavier Yun, Seok Jun Zheng, Theresa

5TH GRADE:

Castro, Elialyn Choi, Alvin Deleon Guerrero, Jada

Monique Duenas, Quimari Liver-scheng Gray, Zander Lee, Jamie Mariano, Nicole Erin Maui, Silva Pamintuan, Manuel Patawaran, Breana Ysabel Saures, Crispin-Joseph E. Solis, Rainer Joy Taimanao, Aryana Carmen Taisacan, Nevaeh Sky Travilla, Arturo Rodrigo

6TH GRADE:

Ano, Natalie Gabrielle Atalig, L'Wina Blanco, Elisa Ellen Castro, Vincent Gunnar Cruz, Mercedes Dayrit, Jenarisa Mae Deleon Guerro, Ierlyma Nicole Diaz, Keannalyn Manglona, Aiyana Jade Militante, Ethan Jude Obnimaga, Ig Kamiya Nicole Reyes, Vicente Tesiro, Tyana Kisha Tolentino, Leyonne Alfred Valiente, Jhazmyn Nhicole Villegas, Miguel

7TH GRADE:

Albuen, Francine Monique Borja, O'hane Cruz, Moeisha Eleanor Dela Cruz, Kina Galang, Raphael Christian Hunter Brissa C. Muna, Sienna Jade Sablan, Aubriana Maria Sasamoto, Derek Moritaro Santiago, Gavril Myles

8TH GRADE:

Ano, William Nathaniel Castro, Elialyn Choi, Alvin Deleon Guerrero, Jada

Cho, Su Bin Novelene Chong, Kevin Daisuke Combindido, Jewel Cruzana, Daphne Rylee Guerrero, Christian Felix Kang, Jerica Mañas, Christopher Adam Mallari, Vaughn Andrei Muna, Devon Tyler Propst, Kiana Lei Schweiger, Therese Rose Sheu, Jeffrey Solis, Raesyl Gerard Steele, Richard Ramon Tenorio, Joshua Donovan Tenorio, Mariana Travilla, Kaia Yang, Jiuen

9TH GRADE:

Aldan, Kadie Verlyn Colombo, Daniele Guanlao, Raymalyn Kang, Kevin Lee, Hwan Hee (Shaina) Marcelo, Bernard Angelo Palacios-Camacho, Puti'on Perez, Carmille Jade Sablan, Penelope Zhu, Connie

10TH GRADE:

Buenaventura, Riley Anne Ham, Jim Michael Javier, Lleyton Andre Pak, Nicole

11TH GRADE:

Acosta, Ydylle Faye Castro, Rosa Javillonar, Danishelle Faye Terlaje, Maria Lael G.

12TH GRADE:

Cabanting, Amy Rose Flores, Quina Kim, Taeyeon Manibusan, Tawnie Ann Salas, Darian Jacob Takayama, Miki

 COMMUNITY BRIEFS
Halloween fun at AMP

Today, from 3:30pm to 6pm, the American Memorial Park will host trick-or-treating along with a special World War II-theme related costume contest. Prizes will be given for the top three costumes. To participate in the contest, be sure to check-in with staff or volunteers before 6pm. For more information or if you would like to be a part of the event and give out treats, register with Jovannalyn Mafnas by Oct. 27, 2017 at jmafna@pacifichistoricparks.org or call 234-7207 Ext. 2020. (NPS)

Trunk or Treat event at Kagman

The Kagman Community Church will be hosting a Trunk or Treat event at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot and a free photo booth inside on Tuesday, Oct. 31, starting at 6pm. Kagman Community Church will also be hosting a free children's fall celebration on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 10am to noon. For more information, contact Joy at 256-8171 or flybjrew@yahoo.com. (PR)

Carrier strike group to make port visit

SANTA RITA, Guam— Ships from USS *Theodore Roosevelt* carrier strike group are scheduled to make a visit

to U.S. Naval Base Guam on Oct. 31, marking the first port visit of their Western Pacific deployment.

During the visit, sailors and Marines will enjoy liberty and get an opportunity to participate in several projects and activities as part of their community outreach program.

Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt*, Carrier Air Wing 17, and embarked Destroyer Squadron 23 departed San Diego for a regularly scheduled deployment to the western Pacific, Oct. 6. Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS *Preble* and USS *Halsey*, also visiting Guam, departed Pearl Harbor on Oct. 16.

The TRCSG deployment, including approximately 7,500 sailors and Marines, is an example of the U.S. Navy's routine presence in waters around the globe displaying commitment to stability, regional cooperation and economic prosperity for all nations. The TRCSG will conduct forward presence operations in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. (PR)

MVA membership meeting on Nov. 9

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold its semi-annual general membership meeting on Nov. 9, 2017, at the Royal

Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort at 10am. Registration will begin at 9:30am.

Guest speakers will be from the MVA's offshore offices and will provide a recap of fiscal year 2017 projects and the MVA's marketing plans for fiscal year 2018.

Speakers will be the respective in-country managers: Irene Lee, Korea market; Shirley Zhang, China market; and Toshi Ichikura, Japan market.

The meeting cost is \$16/person for MVA members and \$20/person for non-members. The cost includes light refreshments and lunch. RSVP should be made by Nov. 3, 2017.

The MVA also welcomes new businesses, agencies and individuals who want to actively participate in the Marianas' top industry as MVA members. Membership is \$100 annually. To RSVP, to request a membership application, or for more information, contact MVA Community Projects administrative assistant Demalynn Pagarao at dpagarao@mymarianas.com or call 664-3200. (MVA)

JIL Church Saipan to mark 20th anniversary

The CNMI community is invited to attend the Jesus is Lord Church Saipan's 20th anniversary celebration on Nov. 5, 3pm at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. The JIL Church Saipan con-

gregation hosts its members at their sanctuary in San Vicente. There are three services available every Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, and 6pm. For more information, call 670-235-8053 or 670-989-8053. (PR)

VA benefits counselor visiting Saipan

A U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on Dec. 15, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The benefits counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg. Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. (PR)

CNMI Next Top Chef competition

The CNMI Next Top Chef 2017 invites interested chefs to register for the competition on Nov. 9, 2017, at 6pm at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Tickets are now on sale for \$50/person including the live cooking competition, full buffet dinner, and raffle. For a chef entry form or tickets, contact Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation at 235-2340 or emptyvesselministry@gmail.com. Jointly organized with the Hotel Association of the

Northern Mariana Islands, the event will benefit the Empty Vessel Ministry. (PR)

Limited tickets for 'Ultimate Drag Queen' on Nov. 4

In celebration of their 25th year anniversary in the CNMI, the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club will host a fundraiser called "The Ultimate Drag Queen 2017" on Nov. 4, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. VIP tickets cost \$25 and general admission is \$15. Proceeds from the event will be used for the club's community projects. For more details, call club president Anna Mae Adaza at 285-4388, vice president Lourdes Ortiz at 785-2306, VP Leony Mendoza at 287-7563, secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or Ernie Molina at 789-8212. (PR)

the first 15 couples only. (PR)

PH consulate to hold NMI outreach

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, will conduct a mobile consular outreach in the CNMI from Nov. 13 to 17, 2017 (Monday to Friday) at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 9am to 6pm. Those who wish to renew their passport, submit your application at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Building D, second floor (top of the Mini-Mart Store), Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm, break time). For any inquiry about passport renewal, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. (PR)

Renewed PH passports now being released

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, is releasing passports to those who renewed their passports last Sept. 8, 9, 10, and 11, 2017. You can pick up your new passports at Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Building D, second floor, at the top of the Mini-Mart Store, Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm is break time). Please bring your old passport and receipt. For more details, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Bldg. #1356 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill,
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone Nos. (670) 664-3196 Fax phone No. (670) 664-3197
Website: www.marianaslabor.net

**NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: The CNMI Department of Labor ("DOL") announces that Employers must comply with the following Department Rules and Regulations ("Regulations"). Failure to comply with these Regulations may cause an employer to be charged with a Notice of Violation by the Department of Labor (DOL), which could result in fines and other sanctions after a due process hearing in the Administrative Hearing Office. Failure to comply with these Regulations could also cause an employer to be denied a Certificate of Good Standing.

1. Post Job Vacancy Announcements on DOL's Website.

DOL Regulations require employers who are hiring or renewing CW-1 status workers on a full-time basis to post job vacancy announcements on the Department's website (www.marianaslabor.net). See DOL Regulations at the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code ("NMIAC") § 80-20.1-225(a). No waiver is available with respect to this job vacancy announcement requirement. Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(e).

2. File Quarterly Total Workforce Listings.

DOL Regulations require employers to submit information *on a quarterly basis* regarding "the number and classification of employees for whom wages were paid during the quarter." [Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-505 et seq.] The Department requires employers to submit this information in a document called the "Total Workforce Listing."

Employers are required to file Total Workforce Listings on a quarterly basis, due on the last day of the month following the quarter:

1st Quarter (January–March)...due on April 30
2nd Quarter (April – June).....due on July 31
3rd Quarter (July – September)...due on October 31
4th Quarter (Oct. – December)....due on January 31

ATTENTION: The Total Workforce Listing for the 3rd Quarter of 2017, is due on October 31, 2017.

3. File Annual Workforce Plan or Updated Existing Plan.

DOL Regulations require all employers who employ nonimmigrant aliens (e.g., CW-1 status employees) to file an updated Workforce Plan every 12 months. Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-510.

The Workforce Plan form is available on the DOL website (www.marianaslabor.net/forms).

The objective of the Workforce Plan is to increase the percentage of U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents and/or CNMI permanent residents in the workforce of the employer. The plan shall include a timetable for accomplishing the replacement of nonimmigrant aliens with qualified citizens, U.S. permanent residents and/or CNMI permanent residents. Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(a-b).

4. Workforce Participation – Minimum Percentage.

DOL Regulations and statutes [3 CMC § 4525(a)] require all employers to maintain a full-time workforce in which a minimum of thirty percent (30%) of the full-time employees are U.S. citizens, CNMI permanent residents and/or U.S. permanent residents. 3 CMC § 4525(a) and Regs. at NMIAC § 80-20.1-210(c)(3). Failure to maintain a minimum percentage of 30% may result in a Notice of Violation filed against the employer.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Division of Fish & Wildlife
Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Lower Base, P.O. Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

**SMILING COVE MARINA TRANSIENT DOCK PUBLIC MEETING**

This is to inform the public and all Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock users, that there will be a meeting open to the public, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Wednesday, November 01, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

The purpose of this meeting is to allow for questions and answers related to the new process at the Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock. - described in the Public Notice below.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all boat operators using the Smiling Cove Marina convenient dock for loading and unloading commercial passengers that effective immediately, the convenient dock will no longer be used for any commercial activities including loading and unloading commercial passengers.

The transient dock will be the only place allow for loading and unloading of commercial passengers. Furthermore no commercial activities in any other areas of the Smiling Cove Marina.

Failure to comply with this public notice may result in prohibiting you and your company from using the Smiling Cove Marina facility. Your cooperation and attention is greatly appreciated.

/s/

Manuel M. Pangelinan
Director, DFW

/s/

Anthony T. Benavente
Secretary, DLNR

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

History demands the release of complete JFK files

Most Americans alive today were small children—if they were on this Earth at all—when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. For those old enough to remember the most vivid and troubling details, that moment left an emptiness in the soul. That is one reason why the last batch of assassination-related documents long locked away in the National Archives and Records Administration should be made public this week.

Access to these documents would give us all a better understanding of our history. Yes, there will still be unanswered questions and maybe even painful conclusions and speculations. Conspiracy theorists no doubt will find new intrigue as they read between the lines. But history demands as complete a record as possible of a horrific and traumatic event—the murder of a U.S. president.

To his credit, President Donald Trump says he will not oppose the release unless there is a “compelling and clear national security or law enforcement justification” to keep the final batch locked away. More than 50 years after the assassination, that needs to be a really high bar. We’re skeptical that a legitimate reason for secrecy still exists and would urge a full release without redaction.

Will we learn much beyond the Warren Commission conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone? Probably not, but this last batch contains files on senior CIA officials from the 1960s who were aware of Oswald’s activities before the assassination. This could add texture to unanswered questions about Oswald’s six days in Mexico City several weeks before Kennedy was assassinated, during which time he met with Cuban and Soviet spies. And we could emerge with new insights on the CIA’s operations against Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro during the height of the Cold War.

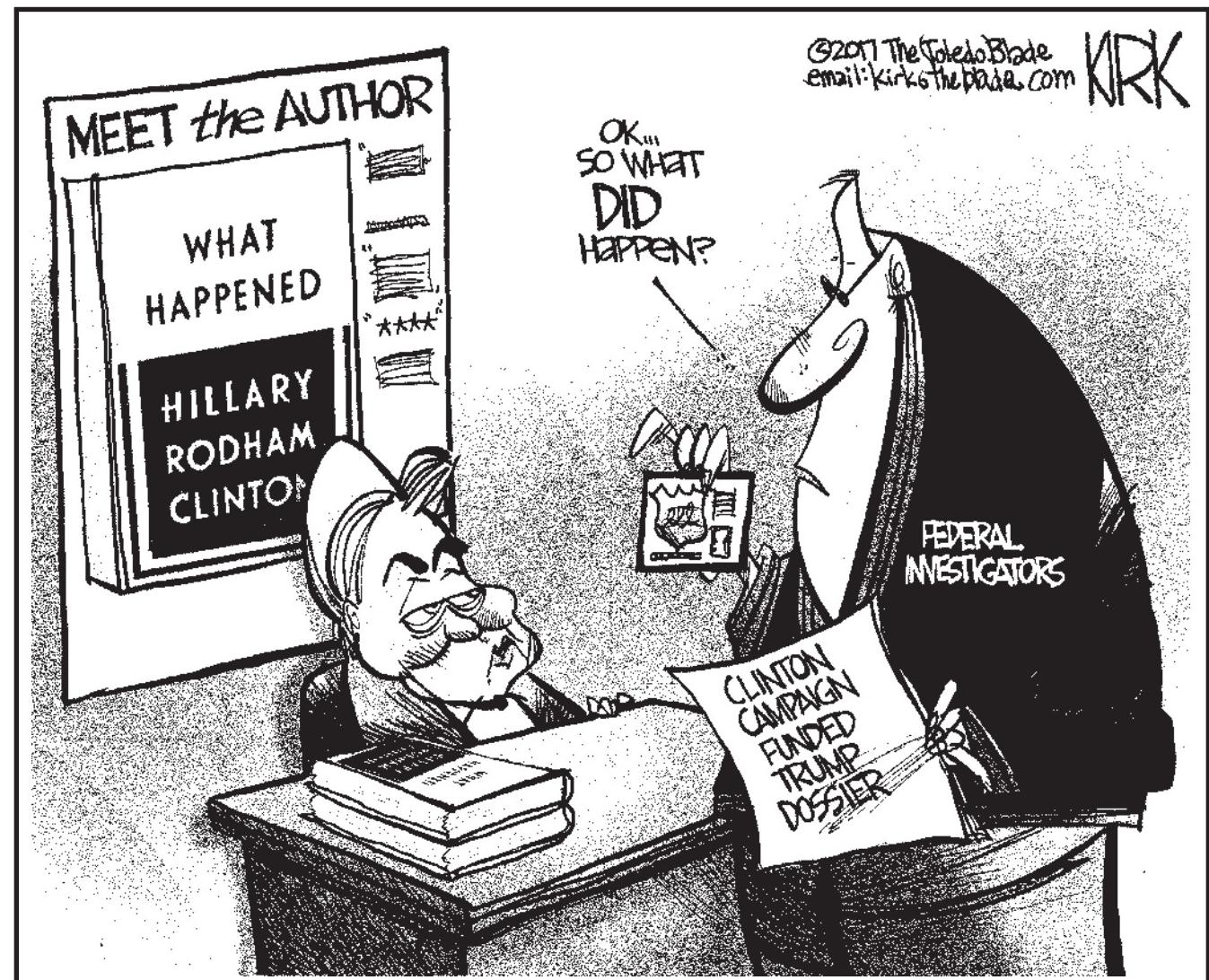
With the Thursday deadline to release the remaining documents fast approaching, we hope Trump sticks to his original vow to release these documents. That will mean rejecting the pressure from some whose first, second and third instincts is to indefinitely cloak all government and intelligence activities in secrecy.

And when these documents become public, all of us should be careful not to leap to conclusions and new conspiracies just because many questions will not be fully answered. Let the documents speak for themselves.

As many of us grow old and gray, the emotional trauma of Nov. 22, 1963, is no longer unbearably raw. Time dulls the pain—especially for Dallas, which for years struggled with the weight of being the city where a young president violently died.

Time, however, doesn’t squelch curiosity and the thirst for information about such a dark day. The nation needs these documents to complete the public record about such a horrific event.

(c)2017 The Dallas Morning News



The Clintons are just not that into you

I'm still trying to make sense of the news that the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton campaign were the forces behind the infamous “Steele Dossier,” a dodgy document full of hearsay about Donald Trump that was put together by an even dodgier outfit called Fusion GPS, which has done shady work on behalf of Russia in the past.

Named after Christopher Steele, the former British spy who put it together, the document has scads of salacious but unverified stories about the Russians having compromising material on Trump. The sources for some of the allegations are apparently Russian government officials.

My scorecard is a hot mess. For months, defenders of the Trump campaign’s meeting with a representative of the Russian government insisted that there’s nothing wrong with collecting dirt, even from a hostile foreign power. “It’s just opposition research,” went the talking point. “Everybody does it.” Clinton’s acolytes replied that, au contraire, it is borderline treasonous to rely on hostile governments for this kind of thing.

But now that the Washington Post has reported that the Clinton campaign and the DNC were behind the “Trump Dossier,” everyone’s shoes are on other feet. Team Trump now insists this is outrageously improper, if not treasonous, and Team Clinton is trying to wave it all away with, “It’s just opposition research, everybody does it.”

Make of that what you will. I, for one, will wait until we get some people under oath, and until the relevant—and necessary—investigations play themselves out.

Still, it seems to me there are only a few obvious takeaways from this development. One is that TrumpWorld only believes the Post is “fake news” when it reports inconvenient facts about Trump. When Hillary is in the crosshairs, the WaPo is gospel.

A second is that Clinton Inc. has been lying for over a year to the country and the press about its involvement in the dossier. As New York Times reporter Maggie Haberman tweeted this week, “Folks involved in funding this lied about it, and with sanctimony, for a year.”

And that brings us to a third, incandescently obvious fact: The Clintons will always abuse, exploit, deceive and make fools of their biggest fans and friends, the press, the public and even each other.

During the Monica Lewinsky scandal, Bill Clinton lied to the public for a long time. But he also lied to his confidantes, including his wife, so that they could go around and sanctimoniously deride and dismiss Bill’s accusers, even under oath.

By JONAH GOLDBERG

Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.



This had been Team Clinton’s M.O. long before Lewinsky became a household name. In 1992, the Clinton campaign set up a whole operation to quash “bimbo eruptions”—i.e., to discredit the victims of Bill’s sexual harassment (something to consider amid the discussion of Harvey Weinstein, Bill O’Reilly and, yes, Trump these days).

But that was just one tile in the rich mosaic of deceit that is the Clinton Way. Bill, who earned the nickname “Slick Willie,” always believed he was smart enough to talk his way out of anything—and he was often successful. But what came naturally to Bill took study for Hillary. He was an improvisational deceiver. She had to prepare. The net result was always the same, though: Their failures were always somebody else’s fault. (Since the election, Hillary has blamed everyone from the DNC to Bernie Sanders to woman-haters everywhere for her loss.) And the people who put faith in the Clintons and defended them always end up holding the bag.

But the lies were always a symptom of a deeper pathology. The Clintons saw themselves as better than the institutions they were supposed to serve, from the White House and the State Department to the Democratic Party and even the country. The rules are for other people. That’s why Clinton Inc. collected millions upon millions of dollars from foreign governments, Wall Street and Hollywood while demonizing their opponents as shills for corporations and wealthy interests. That’s why Hillary flouted the rules for her email server. That’s why Bill flouted the rules for pretty much everything.

And at every step, they expected others to protect them, lie for them, clean up after them and, if necessary, go to jail for them.

As James McDougal, a former friend and business partner of the Clintons (in the now ancient Whitewater land deal turned scandal) put it, “I think the Clintons are really sort of like tornadoes moving through people’s lives. I’m just one of the people left in the wake of their passing by.”

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published.

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We're in Niger—and dozens of other countries—for a very good reason

Of all the questions that linger over the loss of four special operations soldiers in Niger, perhaps the most persistent is: Why are we there?

We're used to having U.S. troops in Asia and the Middle East, but Niger? Is our national security enhanced by what they were trying to do there?

The short answer is yes. To understand why, take a closer look at what our troops were doing—and why.

The mission in Niger, which began in 2013, was a classic special operations operation more specifically known as a "foreign internal defense."

That's an old-school term for the most fundamental task we give our Green Berets (which I served in for 28 years). A small team goes into a foreign country to work with that nation's military to better prepare it to deal with its own problems.

This occurs during what the military calls "phase zero," which is prior to when a bigger conflict emerges. It's done in coordination with the host nation's civilian government, and the entire country team at the U.S. Embassy.

This is not a clandestine Hollywood commando mission, or a suicide raid. It is overt and open. Its purpose is to build rapport with the host nation's military, to improve its capabilities, to gather open source intelligence, and to learn both the lay of the land and the local players.

The U.S. has conducted these kinds of missions worldwide since the 1950s. At times, we have had as few as a dozen of these operations, and at others several hundred in as many as 80-plus

countries simultaneously.

These routine missions have short-circuited conflicts on nearly every continent in the world at one time or another.

They are also inherently dangerous. The teams are small, ranging from a pair of operators up to a few dozen. There are seldom more than 100 U.S. troops.

So why do we put such small teams at risk?

The answer is simply that the return is worth it. Often, the use of a small, mature, and low-profile group of quiet professionals can have greater success than a large, high-profile deployment on a massive scale.

Particularly today, as terror groups such as the Islamic State and al-Qaida move to numerous small or underdeveloped countries, these phase-zero special operations missions allow the U.S. to mitigate the threat before it grows—and they do so without making the U.S. the "world's policeman."

Instead of fighting the terrorists everywhere ourselves, these missions help our friends to better police their own backyards.

These missions have been extremely common since 9/11, so it is ludicrous for legislators to claim ignorance of their existence and purpose.

Nothing about these missions is new, little is "hidden" and none of it should surprise anyone who has spent more than a week on Capitol Hill.

To repeat, these missions are dangerous. The teams that execute them lack the huge support mechanisms Americans have come to associate with military operations. Our troops know

By STEVEN BUCCI

The Heritage Foundation



Steven Bucci is a visiting fellow in the Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy at The Heritage Foundation.

this, and regularly volunteer for the opportunity to participate in the missions simply because they know they work.

They also know these are the kinds of missions they have trained for, and which they execute with greater skill than anyone in the world.

They know that if trouble occurs, support is further away than in conventional operations. Intelligence is superb, often better than in regular military activities, but the logistical and response functions are thin and distant.

That's why we only send professionals on such missions. These are not "kids" who just joined the military six months ago. They are hardened professionals who, yes, "know what the risks are," and go without hesitation.

Yes, we need to know what happened in Niger. Any time military members die in action, a full investigation occurs. A full post-mortem of the deadly ambush in Niger needs to take place so that we can do better on the next mission.

The media and politicians should stop the showmanship and game-playing. Let Defense Secretary James Mattis do his job, and let the brave men and women of the U.S. military do theirs.

Grandstanding senators and talking heads don't help make America safe. Missions like the one in Niger do.

Will others follow Flake, Corker?

WASHINGTON—With the prospect of a day off and beautiful autumn weather in the air, I was washing my kitchen floor and planning to rake leaves from my yard. Then Jeff Flake took the Senate floor.

I ended up sitting on my still-dirty floor, spellbound before the television as the junior Republican senator from Arizona made one of the best speeches I have ever heard in Washington.

It was a "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" moment, done in 17 minutes.

From his heart and from his soul, Flake said that if good people do not stand up to say "enough!" to Donald Trump's "reckless, outrageous and undignified" behavior, they will be complicit in a frightening epoch in history.

Citing Trump's lies, bullying, disregard for civility and injurious tweets, among other flaws, Flake said: "It is often said that children are watching. Well, they are. And what are we going to do about that? When the next generation asks us, 'Why didn't you do something? Why didn't you speak up?' What are we going to say?"

Flake said it is time to realize Trump is not going to "pivot" into good governing. Trump is not going to change. When people say they like hearing the president "tell it how it is," they are just excusing dreadful, undisciplined behavior.

That same day Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said he's sorry he voted for Trump who, Corker said, is "debasing" our country.

I was elated. Republicans were waking to an authoritarian, narcissistic leader undermining our values and principles, whose businesses benefit from the presidency. Surely they'd now admit Trump's aim to deport millions is unworkable

and detrimental. His merging of state and religion dangerous. His rewards for big businesses unfair. His turning back the clock on environmental protection unnecessary. His alienation of allies reprehensible. His talk of nuclear war irresponsible. His revocation of consumer protections harmful. A divider, not a unifier.

Then I heard that Trump got a standing ovation on Capitol Hill that day. Trump called it a lovefest. Republican senators praised him, vowing to pass his proposal to cut taxes for the richest 11,000 Americans in a country of 323 million.

One senator in the private meeting with Trump said Republicans will back him 100 percent to get the tax cuts they crave. As for Corker and Flake? "They're not running for re-election. They're toast," he said. The White House dismissed them as publicity-seekers.

Later that day, in a 50-50 vote, with Vice President Mike Pence breaking the tie, the Senate got rid of a regulation promulgated by a watchdog agency to permit consumers to band together against financial institutions imposing high fees and deceptive practices. Score one for big banks.

Also that day, analysts said Trump's still undefined tax overhaul plan would add as much as \$2 trillion to the national debt. Republicans heaved a universal shoulder shrug; they are desperate for something to parade before voters, deficit be damned. Trump's promise that middle class families would get a \$4,000 tax cut? Absolutely not true.

The same day, it was revealed that a two-person power company in Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's small hometown in Montana got a \$300 million contract to fix Puerto Rico's devastated power grid. A month after two hurricanes, 80 percent of

By ANN MCFEATTERS

Tribune News Service



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the island remains without electricity. That's what "draining the swamp" looks like.

An unaccompanied 17-year-old pregnant girl captured at the Texas border after a harrowing journey from her country was told by the Trump administration she could not have an abortion because she is an undocumented minor. The courts are divided.

Flake's speech was eloquent and historic—a Republican senator denouncing the character of the Republican president. In the moment, many senators were mesmerized. Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell and Flake's fellow Arizonan senator, John McCain, said Flake's decision to leave in January 2019 is lamentable.

But most Republicans scoff that despite Flake's conservative credentials (he votes with Trump on issues), he probably could not have been re-elected anyway given Trump's ridicule of him.

Is the Republican party broken? Will more statesmen retire and be replaced by white supremacists and intemperate scofflaws out to destroy the system?

We don't know. Flake has hope. At some point, he thinks, the fever will break, the spell will disappear, eyes will be opened.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks AG

We get a little bit closer to cannabis legalization with each passing day and now that the AG has spoken out about the problem with the bill the days could be numbered in weeks instead of years. Thanks AG for exposing the fact that the bill violates the process. The Senate can either change the bill to be a legislative act that will become law once approved by both Houses and the governor or they will have to start all over again to get the process right for it to be an initiative. Well, you don't have to be a political scientist to see that the Senate has no choice but to

proceed with the bill as a legislative act. Starting all over again could actually cause the bill to miss the 2018 election, delaying the issue for nearly four years. The many people who wanted legalization now, especially the sick people in the CNMI and those on the mainland who want to come home if marijuana is legalized, really needed a miracle and thanks to the AG, they got one.

The AG also hinted at a potential problem with "governance" if all the islands don't approve the measure, adding to the need for it to be a legislative act. While local control over state control doesn't violate the law, that doesn't mean it is right because the bill allows for each local senatorial district to virtually become their own government when it comes to the legalization issue.

There is nothing wrong with regulations but the bill has enforcement being pushed on DPS when most activities are not supposed to be crime for arrest and there are no controls, and there is no designated means to handle all the activities and monies in this "cash-only" industry. There is only a "policy commission" with a director and no state level government entity to administer the controls, making it a governing mess.

I'm sure everyone appreciates what has been done in drafting the bill once it is filed. The bill can be much better.

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

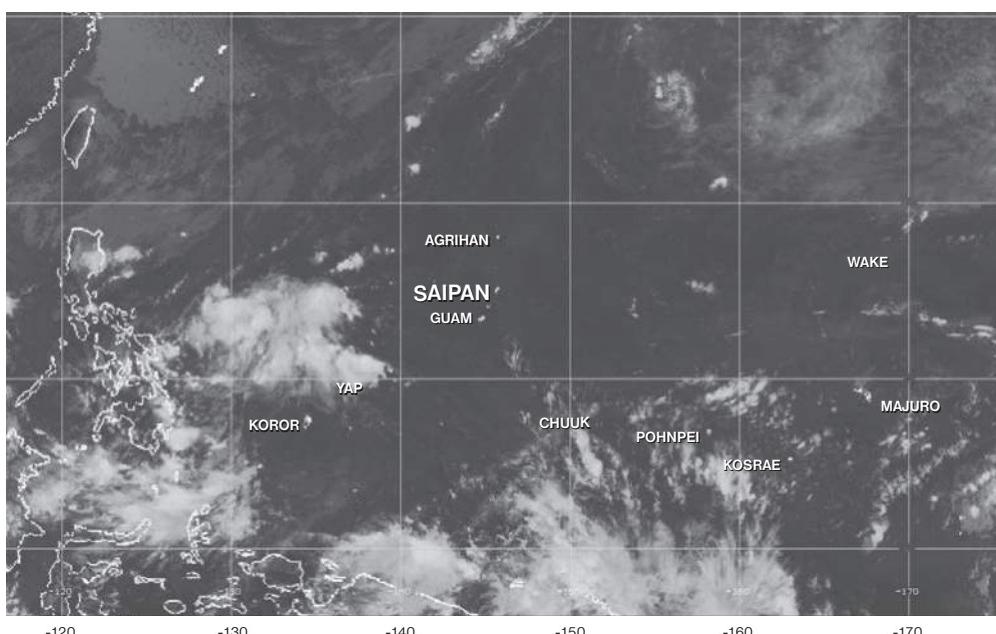
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 87°	▼ 77°	▲ 87°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 78°
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YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:59 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mainly dry weather is expected for much of the upcoming week. It still looks like the best chance of any greater threat of rain and thunder is centered around Wednesday, but most of the guidance has backed off this now, so confidence is lower than it was yesterday. A disturbance is still expected to pass south of Guam around Wednesday and we will get into some convergence. Otherwise we will be predominantly in a trade wind pattern. For now, did not remove thunder from the forecast. There could be another cloudy period around Friday before drier air settles in for the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	84°	/	79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85°	/	78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86°	/	77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86°	/	77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85°	/	80°

AROUND THE GLOBE

		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64°	/	57°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	63°	/	39°
Hong Kong	Sunny	81°	/	72°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	84°	/	73°
London	Partly Cloudy	57°	/	46°
Los Angeles	Showers	68°	/	59°
Manila	Showers	82°	/	77°
Melbourne	Cloudy	64°	/	54°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	78°	/	71°
New York	Sunny	58°	/	44°
Osaka	Sunny	66°	/	52°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	55°	/	37°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	66°	/	52°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	70°	/	45°
Salem	Sunny	74°	/	48°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59°	/	50°
Seoul	Cloudy	64°	/	52°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	61°	/	48°
Washington, DC	Sunny	61°	/	43°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

3:55 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.47
10:19 AM	LOW TIDE	0.35
4:59 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.90
11:26 PM	LOW TIDE	0.63

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Wednesday	6:13 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:14 AM	5:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:12 am	2:57 pm
Wednesday	-	3:05 am	3:41 pm
Thursday	-	4:00 am	4:25 pm
Friday	-	4:56 am	5:11 pm
Saturday	-	5:55 am	6:01 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 28, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297 4:15pm 7:05pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:00pm Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am 2, 3, 4				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
0Z626 2:10am 6:00am 1				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 1, 2, 3			
TW308 2:35am 6:20am 6, 7							

Business

For Spanish and Catalan economies, no winners from standoff

MADRID (AP)—Xavier Gabriel can take some credit if the tiny Catalan mountain town of Sort is one of the most famous in Spain.

He runs a lottery shop called La Bruja de Oro, or The Golden Witch, in a town whose name, aptly, means “Luck” in Catalan. Its fortune in having sold many prize-winning tickets has made it a household name and a successful online business.

But the crisis surrounding Catalonia’s push for independence has changed life for 60-year-old Gabriel. He joined more than 1,500 companies in moving their official headquarters out of the wealthy region in recent weeks. Their main fear: that they would no longer be covered by Spanish and European Union laws if Catalonia manages to break away, dragging their businesses into unknown territory.

“The time had come to make a decision,” said Gabriel, who employs 16 people and describes himself as a proud Catalan.

Like Gabriel’s, the vast majority of companies that moved their headquarters didn’t transfer workers or assets, such as bank holdings or production equipment. So far, it’s mainly a form of legal insurance. But as the political crisis escalates, the risk is that companies are deferring investments and hiring. There is evidence that tourists are holding off booking, perhaps frightened by images in the media of police crackdowns, street demonstrations and strikes.

And the situation risks getting worse before it improves: the central government’s decision on Friday to take control of the region could spiral out of control if there is popular



AP

A youth draped in a Spanish flag puts flag stickers on a Caixabank building before a mass rally against Catalonia’s declaration of independence, in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017.

resistance, whether by citizens or local authorities like the Catalan police force.

“There is absolutely no doubt that the crisis is having a very damaging effect on the economy,” said Javier Diaz Gimenez, an economics professor at Spain’s prestigious IESE Business School.

Financial markets in Spain have so far fallen only modestly, reflecting investors’ apparent belief that the tensions will eventually be resolved. The Spanish government has called a regional election in Catalonia for Dec. 21 and could later consider revisions to the constitution that might

placate some of the independence supporters.

But that could take some time, Diaz Gimenez says, given how confrontational both sides have been.

The list of businesses moving headquarters includes Catalonia’s top two banks, Caixabank and Sabadell, which are among Spain’s top five lenders. Then there is the Codorniu cava sparkling wine maker for which Catalonia is famous. Another well-known cava maker, Freixenet, is also planning to follow if the independence drive continues. Publishing giant Planeta, the world’s leading Spanish-language

publisher and second biggest publisher in France, has also moved its official address out of Catalonia.

Caixabank says it suffered a “moderate” but temporary run on deposits because of the crisis, but said it has since recovered and was adamant the move was permanent.

Shares for Caixabank, Sabadell and some other companies have been volatile, falling after the Oct. 1 vote for independence and jumping sharply when they announced their decision to move headquarters.

Lottery shop owner Gabriel says ticket sales this month are up nearly 300 percent on

last year, a rise he attributed to popular support for his decision to move his business.

Diaz Gimenez said the decisions to move headquarters, while not immediately affecting jobs, were “just the tip of the iceberg.”

“Plans to relocate firms or invest elsewhere are going to accelerate and some of it is going to go to, say, Poland, and it’s never going to come back,” he said.

“People that were thinking about investing in Spain and Barcelona are starting to think again,” he said. “It’s not just Catalonia. It’s the mismanagement by Spain, which is prov-

ing that it’s not a serious country because it cannot solve this thing.”

The turmoil, ironically, comes just as Spain has been enjoying some of the fastest economic growth in Europe.

Its economy, the fourth-largest in the 19-country euro-zone, grew by a hefty quarterly rate of 0.9 percent in the second quarter. The government has maintained its forecast for growth in 2017 at 3.1 percent, but revised its estimate for 2018 from 2.6 percent to 2.3 percent because of the political crisis. Moody’s credit rating agency has warned that a continued political impasse and, ultimately, independence for Catalonia would severely hurt the country’s credit rating.

Tourism seems to be taking the biggest hit so far.

Experts say spending in the sector in Catalonia in the first two weeks of October—that is, following the independence referendum—was down 15 percent from a year earlier.

Tourism represents about 11 percent of Spain’s 1.1-trillion euro (\$1.3 trillion) gross domestic product, with Catalonia and its capital, Barcelona, providing a fifth of that, being the most popular destinations for visitors.

Exceltur, a nonprofit group formed by the 25 leading Spanish tourist groups, expects growth in tourism this year to ease from an estimated 4.1 percent to 3.1 percent.

Reservations in Barcelona alone are down 20 percent compared with last year, it said. If the trend continues in the final three months of the year, it could lead to losses of up to 1.2 billion euros (\$1.41 billion) in the sector, which in turn could affect jobs.

Confusion coming with California’s legal marijuana

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ready or not, California kicks off recreational marijuana sales on Jan. 1. And, mostly, it’s not.

Los Angeles and San Francisco are among many cities still struggling to fashion local rules for pot shops and growers. Without the regulations, there could be limited options in many places for consumers eager to ring in the new year with a legal pot purchase.

“The bulk of folks probably are not going to be ready Jan. 1,” conceded Cara Martinson of the California State Association of Counties.

In general, California will treat cannabis like alcohol, allowing people 21 and older to legally possess up to an ounce and grow six mariju-

na plants at home.

Come January, the newly legalized recreational sales will be merged with the state’s two-decade-old medical marijuana market, which is also coming under much stronger regulation.

But big gaps loom in the system intended to move cannabis from the field to distribution centers, then to testing labs and eventually retail shops.

The state intends to issue only temporary licenses starting in January, and it has yet to release its plan to govern the estimated \$7 billion marketplace, the nation’s largest legal pot economy.

If businesses aren’t licensed and operating in the legal market, governments aren’t collecting their slice

of revenue from sales. The state alone estimates it could see as much as \$1 billion roll in within several years.

Operators have complained about what they see as potential conflicts in various laws and rules, or seemingly contradictory plans.

The state expects businesses that receive licenses will only work with others that hold them. But that has alarmed operators who wonder what will happen if their supplier, for instance, decides not to join the new legal market.

Others say it’s not clear what could happen in cities that don’t enact pot laws, which they warn could open a loophole for businesses to set up shop. Some communities have banned recreational sales completely.

Saudi crown prince favors extending OPEC production limits

Saudi Arabia’s crown prince says his country supports extending an agreement by major oil producers to limit output beyond next March.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said Saturday that the OPEC-led agreement is necessary to balance supply with demand.

Saudi Arabia is the world’s largest producer and the most influential member of OPEC. The agreement, which kicked in at the start of 2017, also included Russia and other non-OPEC countries.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is expected to take up the agreement at its next meeting on Nov. 30.

In a statement, Prince Mohammed said that Saudi Arabia “affirms its readiness to

extend the production cut agreement, which proved its feasibility by rebalancing supply and demand.”

The effect of the production limits approved by major oil countries has been muted by rising output from U.S. shale-oil producers. The prince said that high demand for oil has absorbed the increased supply from shale oil.

“The journey toward restoring balance to markets, led by the Kingdom, is proving successful despite the challenges,” he said.

On Friday, Brent Crude, the international benchmark oil, rose above \$60 for the first time since 2015 as traders grew increasingly confident that OPEC will continue to limit pumping.

The slump in oil prices that

began in mid-2014 has created budget problems for Saudi Arabia and other major producers. Prince Mohammed has laid out a sweeping plan to wean Saudi Arabia off its near total dependence on oil exports.

Jim Krane, an energy expert at Rice University in Houston, said Saudi Arabia needs to keep oil prices up to balance its budget and make the upcoming public sale of stock in Saudi Aramco, the state-owned oil company, attractive to investors.

“Nobody is going to want a piece of Saudi Aramco with oil under \$40, which is where it would be if OPEC wasn’t choking off supply,” he said.

Krane said OPEC cutbacks and higher prices would help boost U.S. production in Texas and North Dakota. (AP)

Nation

It will be a tale of 2 countries as open enrollment begins

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—The Trump administration's efforts to undermine the Affordable Care Act have health care advocates and insurers concerned that the open enrollment period will be one of chaos and confusion.

That's not true everywhere.

A dozen states operate their own health insurance marketplaces, maintaining control over advertising and the help they can offer consumers. That will create a striking difference when open enrollment begins Wednesday between those states and the others that rely on the federal marketplace, essentially creating a tale of two countries.

For the individual health insurance market in much of the country, the Trump administration has slashed spending on advertising by 90 percent and drastically reduced budgets for the groups that help consumers choose a plan.

It cut the open enrollment period in half, to six weeks. Shortening the sign-up window further, the federal government will shut down its online marketplace, healthcare.gov, for 12 hours of maintenance nearly every Sunday during open enrollment.

The 12 states with their own exchanges are free to chart their own course and make it easier on consumers.

Nursing homes struggled with choice to evacuate in hurricane

DALLAS (AP)—Murky water started seeping into a Port Arthur, Texas, nursing home four days after administrators decided to shelter in place. Volunteers—one even brandishing a gun—demanded relocation of the elderly residents, at least two of whom died in the days after police ultimately ordered the evacuation.

The deaths of elderly residents at Lake Arthur Place and other Texas and Florida facilities after hurricanes made landfall in August and September have heightened scrutiny of the evacuation procedures at nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

"A lot of things went wrong, and went very tragically wrong," said Chip Ferguson, a lawyer representing families who have filed civil lawsuits against two Port Arthur nursing homes.

It's difficult for investigators to determine whether decisions on when to evacuate played a role in the deaths. That's partly because many older residents at the facilities have underlying medical conditions, and local emergency

through fees charged to insurers on plans sold through their marketplace.

Minnesota, Colorado and Washington will continue heavy advertising for their exchanges. Thousands of enrollment specialists will continue to help consumers navigate insurance plans in California

after. Nearly 33,000 patients in hundreds of other facilities sheltered in place.

"A greater emphasis has been placed on sheltering in place in recent years, given the challenges and issues that can go with evacuations of this population," said Kevin Warren, the chief executive officer and president of the association.

Kathryn Hyer, the director of the University of South Florida's Center on Aging, said a study she co-authored found that nursing home patients who were evacuated during a hurricane had a 3 to 5 percent higher chance of dying within 90 days than those who stayed put and an 8 percent higher chance of being hospitalized.

She also said hurricanes can change their forecast tracks, which poses another danger in evacuating. As Irma neared Florida, some nursing homes on the Atlantic coast moved their patients 100 miles (160 kilometers) or more to the Gulf Coast, only to have the storm's track also move west, forcing a retreat.

and New York.

For many of these states, 2018 looks like a payoff for the political risks and costs they assumed when they decided to set up their own exchanges.

"When I think about what's going on at the federal level, I'm sure glad we have the reins here at the state," said Allison O'Toole, director of Minnesota's health insurance exchange, MNsure.

Doctors prepare for deep dive into Las Vegas shooter's brain

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Scientists are preparing to do a microscopic study of the Las Vegas gunman's brain, but whatever they find, if anything, likely won't be what led him to kill 58 people in the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history, experts said.

Stephen Paddock's brain is being sent to Stanford University for a months-long examination after a visual inspection during an autopsy found no abnormalities, Las Vegas authorities said.

Doctors will perform multiple forensic analyses, including an exam of the 64-year-old's brain tissue to find any possible neurological problems.

The brain will arrive in California soon, and Stanford has been instructed to spare no expense for the work, The New York Times reported. It will be further dissected to determine if Paddock suffered from health problems such as strokes, blood vessel diseases,

cent in California to jumps of roughly 45 percent in Florida and nearly 60 percent in Iowa. Premiums for the most popular plans are up 34 percent nationwide, on average.

Millions of shoppers, whether they buy coverage on HealthCare.gov or through their state's marketplace, will see another modest spike after Trump's decision earlier this month to halt payments to insurers that help cover some consumers' deductibles and co-pays.

Trump called those cost-sharing payments "bailouts" to insurance companies. The federal subsidy on actual premiums remains, but some state officials are concerned that consumers will be confused and believe those, too, have been eliminated. The worry is that they simply would not bother to shop for a plan, thinking they couldn't afford it. About 12 million Americans buy individual coverage on the exchanges, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

The morning after Trump's Oct. 12 announcement, Colorado's Connect for Health exchange sent an email blast to current and prospective enrollees, stressing that "financial help is still available for 2018."

That's the kind of autonomy that gives states with an independent marketplace an upper-hand, said Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

Many states are bracing for double-digit rate hikes in the individual market, from an average increase of 12.5 per-

dreds more, Paddock took his own life with a shot through his mouth, police say.

Investigators working around the clock remain frustrated by a lack of clues that would point to his motive. Authorities have resorted to putting up billboards in southern Nevada seeking tips and now the intensive brain study that medical experts say likely won't yield definitive answers.

If a disease is found, experts say it would be false science to conclude it caused or perhaps even contributed to the massacre, even if that explanation would ease the minds of investigators and the world at large.

"There's a difference between association and causality, and just because you have anything, doesn't mean it does anything," said Brian Peterson, president of the National Association of Medical Examiners and chief coroner of Wisconsin's Milwaukee County.



In this Oct. 26, 2017, photo, a woman walks past the Briva Health enrollment office for MNsure, Minnesota's insurance marketplace, in Minneapolis. AP

Asia

Duterte visits Japan, says talks needed with Kim Jong Un

TOKYO (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said someone should talk to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and reassure him that nobody is out to remove him or destroy his country.

Duterte made the comments on Sunday, a day ahead of a visit to Japan, where he hopes to get help with rebuilding the strife-torn southern Philippine city of Marawi. A military campaign recently ended a five-month siege of the city by Islamic State group-aligned militants that left more than 1,100 combatants and civilians dead.

Apart from signing an agreement Monday on details for 1 trillion yen (\$8.8 billion) in aid over five years that was agreed to earlier, Duterte said he also expects to discuss the North Korean nuclear threat with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as well as with President Donald Trump when he meets him in Manila next month.

The U.S., Japan, South Korea and others need to reassure Kim that nobody is threatening him and to ask him to stop threatening a nuclear attack, Duterte said.

"You must remember that he is a leader of his people," he said, adding that "whatever he proclaims himself to be, somebody has got to talk to him."

"So, if somebody could just reach out, talk to him



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte speaks during a press conference before leaving for Japan, in Davao, Philippines, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017. AP

and say, 'My friend, why don't you just join me in

the table and we'll just talk about these things?'" Duterte

told reporters in the southern Philippine city of Davao. "Nobody's talking to him."

Duterte echoed Trump in saying he believes China has the greatest leverage with Pyongyang, a longtime Beijing ally. And he expressed

concern over the potential for dangerous missteps in the standoff with North Korea over its nuclear program.

"We are worried, all of us, that you know, Murphy's Law, 'If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong.'"

Ship with sailors rescued at sea reaches US base in Okinawa

WHITE BEACH NAVAL FACILITY, Japan (AP)—A U.S. Navy ship carrying two sailors it rescued from their storm-battered sailboat in the Pacific docked Monday at an American naval base in Japan.

Jennifer Appel and Tasha Fuiava were standing with the USS Ashland's commanding officer and others high on the bridge when the ship arrived at White Beach Naval Facility in Okinawa, five days after it picked up the women and their two dogs from their boat, 900 miles southeast of Japan.

Appel and Fuiava had left Honolulu on May 3 aboard Appel's 50-foot vessel the Sea Nymph for what was supposed to be an 18-day trip to Tahiti.

Storms flooded the engine and damaged the mast and sails so badly, they couldn't generate enough wind power to stay on course. They drift-

ed aimlessly and sent unanswered distress calls for 98 consecutive days.

They were thousands of miles in the wrong direction when a Taiwanese fishing vessel found them. Towing the sailboat damaged it further, but Appel swam to the Taiwanese vessel to make a mayday call.

They'd run out of food for the dogs, and the woman began sharing their own, leaving their food supply 90 percent depleted by the time they were rescued.

The USS Ashland on Wednesday picked up the women, plus the dogs Zeus and Valentine, all four looking remarkably fit for having been lost at sea for nearly six months.

Appel told reporters on Friday that they were beginning to believe they were completely out of luck when they saw the U.S. Navy ship chugging

While in Tokyo, apart from talks with government officials, Duterte is due to meet with Japanese business leaders and have an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, where, the blunt-spoken Philippine president said, "I suppose that I have to limit my mouth there."

Duterte praised Japan as a "true friend of the Philippines."

After their talks later Monday, Abe and Duterte were expected to announce a package of Japanese assistance projects over the next five years, including the Marawi reconstruction help and support for the anti-drug effort in the Philippines, a subway system in Metro-Manila, railways and disaster prevention infrastructure, officials in Tokyo said.

"Japan has advanced the news that they will help in rebuilding Marawi," Duterte said. "I think the damage alone and the dimension of the destruction, we would tell Japan that we need their very best in their assistance. I would see significant assistance."

The siege in the southern Philippines displaced some 400,000 residents, including the entire population of Marawi, a bastion of the Islamic faith in the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines. Military airstrikes, artillery and heavy machine-gun fire turned the lakeside city's central business district and outlying communities into a smoldering wasteland of disfigured buildings and bullet-pocked mosques and houses.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Army supporters, Buddhist nationalists march in Myanmar city

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—People marched in Myanmar's largest city on Sunday to support the military, which has come under heavy criticism over violence that has driven hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims to flee to neighboring Bangladesh. More than 2,000 army supporters, including Buddhist nationalists and monks, took part in the march. "I want to urge you to support the military. Only if the military is strengthened will our sovereignty will be secured," a senior Buddhist nationalist monk, Zagara, told the crowd. More than 600,000 Rohingya from northern Rakhine state have fled to Bangladesh since Aug. 25, when Myanmar security forces began a scorched-earth campaign against Rohingya villages. Myanmar's government has said it was responding to attacks on police outposts by insurgents, but the United Nations and others have said the response was disproportionate.

Myanmar charges foreign journalists, others for flying drone

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar authorities have charged two foreign journalists, a local freelancer who works as an interpreter and their driver for allegedly flying drones illegally over and around the government's parliament buildings, police said Sunday. Mok Choy Lin, a Malaysian, and Lau Hon Meng, a Singaporean, journalists for Turkish Radio and Television, were detained along with their local

interpreter and freelance journalist Aung Naing Soe after flying drones over the parliament building on Friday, police said. The four were charged under the Export and Import Law and face up to three years in prison if found guilty, police said, adding that a trial would begin at the end of a 15-day remand. Police officer San Aung said the drone was imported without permission. The detained journalists and driver have not been allowed to see family members since the arrest on Friday, one of the family members said.

Church bell rings in Kashmir church after 5 decades

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—For the first time in five decades, a church bell rang Sunday at the largest Catholic church in the main city of India's portion of Muslim-majority Kashmir. Members of Srinagar's tiny Christian community assembled at the 120-year-old Holy Family Catholic Church and celebrated the installation of the new bell, weighing 105 kilograms (231 pounds). The church lost its original bell 50 years ago in an arson attack. According to church officials, the church and its belfry were damaged in the attack by protesters demonstrating against the 1967 Mideast war. The bell was badly damaged and rendered useless in the incident, said Sydney Rath, a local Christian member of the church. He said the bell was not installed all these years because "the community didn't have enough resources to order a new bell after its damage."

toward them.

"When I saw the gray ship on the horizon, I was just shaking," she said then. "I was ready to cry, I was so happy. I knew we were going to live."

Although Appel has been sailing the Hawaiian islands for 10 years and spent two years preparing for this voyage, she acknowledged she and Fuiava, a novice sailor, may not have prepared as well as they could have.

Appel credited their survival in part to the veteran sailors in Hawaii who had warned them to prepare well for their journey.

"They said pack every square inch of your boat with food, and if you think you need a month, pack six months, because you have no idea what could possibly happen out there," Appel said. "And the sailors in Honolulu really gave us good advice. We're here."

World

Pro-independence Catalans: ‘I’ve never felt Spanish’

GIRONA, Spain (AP)—To sense the conflicting currents of identity that have led Spain to the edge of a constitutional cliff, look no farther than Girona, some 60 miles (100 kilometers) northeast of Barcelona. Maps and world governments say it’s in Spain—but many residents consider it part of an independent republic of Catalonia.

Amid the party atmosphere of a festival weekend, many in this secessionist stronghold cheered the Catalan parliament’s declaration of independence from Spain, a country they don’t regard as their own.

“I’ve never felt Spanish in my life,” said graphic designer Anna Faure as Girona celebrated the annual festival of its patron saint with food, music, a carnival and displays of the gravity-defying sport of human towers, known as castells.

Faure says castells is a true Catalan tradition, a view she doesn’t hold about Spanish icons such as bullfighting, which Catalan authorities have tried to ban, or Flamenco, an import from Andalucia in southern Spain.

Flamenco is fine, she said, but “it’s not mine.”

Many people in this northeastern region of 7.5 million believe Catalonia’s language, history and cultural traditions—even Catalans’ ironic



In this Friday, Oct. 27, 2017 file photo, people react as they watch the parliament session on a huge screen during a rally outside the Catalan parliament in Barcelona, Spain. AP

sense of humor—set it apart from the rest of Spain.

That feeling of separateness has mixed with a volatile blend of wounded pride, economic pain and political animosity to create a crisis that could break up Spain.

The country has been in constitutional turmoil since Catalans backed independence in an Oct. 1 referendum that was dismissed as illegal by Spain. When the regional

parliament voted Friday to declare independence, Madrid fired the Catalan government and called a new election.

No one knows how the crisis will end, but many Catalans feel it has been a long time coming.

“We wouldn’t have arrived at this point if they had treated us well for many years,” said illustrator Judit Alguero, expressing a common feeling that the authori-

ties in Madrid are at best neglectful and at worst hostile to Catalan aspirations.

The seeds of that feeling, and of Catalonia’s modern independence movement, germinated during the authoritarian regime of Francisco Franco between 1939 and 1975. Franco banned the official use of the Catalan language and executed or imprisoned opposition politicians and activists.

Stories of that repressive era

are part of the lore of many Catalan families.

Primary school teacher Adriana Piferrer, whose grandmother told of being beaten for speaking Catalan at school, said that by declaring independence, “we are living the dream of our grandparents. And I think that’s so important for us.”

After Franco’s death, Spain became a democracy, and Catalonia was granted a de-

Somali police, intelligence chiefs fired after deadly attack

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Security forces ended an overnight siege by militants Sunday at a hotel in Somalia’s capital after a bombing and shootout that killed 23 people, and the government fired its police and intelligence chiefs amid the continuing extremist attacks.

The Cabinet action followed a recommendation by Security Minister Mohamed Abukar Islow. It came hours after the end of the attack on the Nasa-Hablood Hotel and two weeks after more than 350 people were killed in a massive truck bombing on a busy Mogadishu street in Somalia’s worst-ever attack.

The bloodshed has shaken public confidence in the ability of the military to protect the capital, and many Somalis blame the government of not doing enough.

“We are dying in hundreds now,” said resident Ahmednur Hashi. “Who is going to protect us?”

Al-Shabab, Africa’s deadliest Islamic extremist group, claimed responsibility for the

latest attack, which began Saturday afternoon when a truck bomb exploded outside the popular hotel. The blast twisted vehicles and caused massive damage to nearby buildings that were left with only their walls standing.

The militants invaded the hotel and gunfire continued as security forces fought them inside the building. Two more blasts were heard, including one in which an attacker detonated a vest of explosives.

Troops regained control of the hotel after killing three attackers and capturing two others, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein.

Salim Aliyow Ibrow, the minister of Electricity & Water, was rescued from the hotel amid the shooting. Some extremists threw grenades and cut off the building’s electricity as night fell.

Among the dead were a mother and three children, including a baby, all shot in the head, Hussein said. Other victims included a senior police colonel, a former lawmaker and a former government minister.

The truck bomber pretended his vehicle had broken down before he detonated it in front of the hotel’s fortified gate, said police Col. Mohamed Abdullahi.

The U.S. mission in Somalia condemned the attack, saying the U.S. “remains committed to work with our Somali, African Union and international partners to degrade and defeat terrorism as Somalia continues on a path to stability and prosperity for its people.”

Al-Shabab often targets high-profile areas of Mogadishu. Although it quickly claimed responsibility for this weekend’s attack, it has not commented on the massive truck bombing on Oct. 14; experts have said the high death toll might have caused the group to hesitate in claiming responsibility for fear of a backlash from Somali citizens.

President Mohamed Abdulla Mohamed said the latest attack was meant to instill fear in the thousands of Somalis who marched through Mogadishu in defiance of al-Shabab after the earlier bombing.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran says its president turned down a meeting with Trump

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran’s foreign ministry says that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani turned down a meeting with President Donald Trump during his visit to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly in September. The Sunday report by the semi-official ILNA news agency quotes ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi as saying “an intention was expressed by the American side that was not approved by President Rouhani,” in reference to the alleged meeting request. In 2013, then U.S. President Barack Obama and Rouhani spoke by telephone, the highest-level contact between the two countries in decades, prompting an outcry from Iranian hardliners. Since then there has been no such communication between Tehran and Washington, which officially severed diplomatic ties in 1979.

French women rally against sexual abuse under #MeToo banner

PARIS (AP)—Women protested sexual abuse and harassment Sunday in 11 French cities under the #MeToo banner in the wake of mounting allegations against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein. Carol Galand, an independent journalist who organized the protests, told The Associated Press that it’s important this movement went beyond social media. “Some women don’t have the strength to handle alone those aggressions

that they faced. So they really need to be together, because together we are stronger,” she said. In Paris, several hundred people protested Sunday on the Republic Plaza. Some chanted “Aggressors are liars” and held banners saying “I will not remain silent” and “Respect women.” Many also had banners with the #MeToo motto.

Kenyan official says opposition leaders incited riots

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—A top Kenyan government official on Sunday accused opposition leaders of inciting riots and attacks on police since a repeat presidential election, while opposition chief Raila Odinga visited a Nairobi slum and told thousands of cheering supporters that the government intends to rule by force. As the rift between the East African country’s two main political factions appeared to widen, the Kenyan election commission was finalizing and verifying its tally of votes from an election that was boycotted by Odinga supporters, essentially yielding what they see as a hollow victory to President Uhuru Kenyatta. Odinga said in an interview with The Associated Press on Sunday that the election on Thursday was a sham and that a new vote should be held within 90 days. At least nine people have died in violence linked to the election, which was a rerun of an Aug. 8 vote that was nullified by the Supreme Court which cited irregularities and illegalities.

gree of autonomy, with a regional government, its own police force and control over education. Public schools now teach primarily in Catalan, and national symbols are flown with pride.

While Catalan nationalism has flourished, support for outright independence was not widespread in the decades after Franco’s death. In the early 2000s, polls suggested only about 15 percent of Catalans wanted to break from Spain.

But in recent years, economic crisis and political hostility between Barcelona and Madrid have left many Catalans feeling wounded, fanning the flames of separatism.

Many here trace their support for independence to the political and legal battle over a 2006 autonomy agreement granting Catalonia the status of a nation within Spain, with tax-raising powers. Parts of the agreement were struck down by Spain’s constitutional court in 2010, triggering angry protests and leading some Catalans to believe they would never get a fair deal from Spain.

Focus

By DANICA COTO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The head of Puerto Rico's power company said Sunday the agency is cancelling its \$300 million contract with Whitefish Energy Holdings amid scrutiny of the tiny Montana company's role in restoring the island's power system.

The announcement by Ricardo Ramos came hours after Gov. Ricardo Rossello urged the utility to scrap the deal for Whitefish's help in rebuilding the electrical system from the damage inflicted by Hurricane Maria.

"It's an enormous distraction," Ramos said of the controversy over the contract. "This was negatively impacting the work we're already doing."

The current work by Whitefish teams will not be affected by the cancellation and that work will be completed in November, Ramos said. He said the cancellation will delay pending work by 10 to 12 weeks if no alternatives are found.

Ramos said he had not talked with Whitefish executives about his announcement. "A lawsuit could be forthcoming," he warned.

Whitefish spokesman Chris Chiames told The Associated Press that the company was "very disappointed" in the governor's decision, and said it would only delay efforts to restore power.

He said Whitefish brought 350 workers to Puerto Rico in less than a month and it expected to have a total of 500 this week. Chiames said the company completed critical work, including a project that will soon lead to a half million people in San Juan getting power.

"We will certainly finish any work that (the power company) wants us to complete and stand by our commitments," he said.

Roughly 70 percent of the U.S. territory remains without power more than a month after Maria struck on Sept. 20 as a Category 4 storm with winds of up to 154 mph (245 kph). Ramos said Sunday that the total of cost of restoring the system would come to \$1.2 billion.

The cancellation is not official until approved by the utility's board. Ramos said it would take effect 30 days after that.

Ramos said the company already has paid Whitefish \$10.9 million to bring its workers and heavy equipment



PUERTO RICO utility moves to scrap \$300M Whitefish contract

to Puerto Rico and has a \$9.8 million payment pending for work done so far.

Ramos said cancellation of the contract will not lead to a penalty, but it's likely the government will pay at least \$11 million for the company to go home early, including all costs incurred in the month after the cancellation.

Federal investigators have been looking into the contract awarded to the small company from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's hometown and the deal is being audited at the local and federal level.

Ramos said the company contacted Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority two days before the storm hit, at a time when it was becoming clear the hurricane could cause massive damage.

Ramos earlier said he had spoken with at least five other companies that demanded rates similar to those of Whitefish, but also wanted a down payment the agency did not have.

He said Sunday he hadn't consulted with anyone else about signing the deal and didn't notify the governor's

office for a week. He again praised Whitefish's work.

"They're doing an excellent job," he said.

"There's nothing illegal here ... Of that, we're sure," he said, adding that he welcomes a federal investigation. "The process was done according to the law."

Ramos said his agency at first believed the Federal Emergency Management Agency pre-approved contracts, something the agency has denied.

FEMA said it has not ap-

proved any reimbursement requests from the power company for money to cover repairs to the island's electrical system. The contract said the utility would not pay costs unallowable under FEMA grants, but it also said, "The federal government is not a party to this contract."

FEMA has raised concerns about how Whitefish got the deal and whether the contracted prices were reasonable. The 2-year-old company had just two full-time employees when the storm hit, but it has since hired more than 300 workers.

The White House had no comment Sunday. Last week,

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the federal government had no role in the process that led to awarding the contract.

"This was something solely determined by the Puerto Rican government," she said Friday.

Rossello said he has requested that crews from New York and Florida come help restore power in Puerto Rico as he criticized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for not meeting its goals. The agency could not be immediately reached for comment.

The governor also announced the appointment of an outside coordinator to oversee the power company's purchase and contracting division.

"If something illegal was done, once again, the officials involved in that process will feel the full weight of the law, and I will take administrative actions," Rossello said.

A Whitefish contract obtained by The Associated Press found that the deal included \$20,277 an hour for a heavy lift Chinook helicopter, \$650 an hour for a large crane truck, \$322 an hour for a foreman of a power line crew,

\$319 an hour for a journeyman lineman and \$286 an hour for a mechanic. Each worker also gets a daily allowance of \$80 for food, \$332 for a hotel room and \$1,000 for each flight to or from the mainland.

The company is based in Whitefish, Montana. Zinke, a former Montana congressman, knows Whitefish CEO Andy Techmanski, and Zinke's son also had a summer job at a Whitefish construction site.

"I had absolutely nothing to do with Whitefish Energy receiving a contract in Puerto Rico," Zinke recently said in a statement linked to a tweet.

"Any attempts by the dishonest media or political operatives to tie me to awarding or influencing any contract involving Whitefish are completely baseless."

Democrats also have questioned the role of HBC Investments, a key financial backer of Whitefish. The Dallas-based company's founder and general partner, Joe Colonnella, has contributed thousands of dollars to President Donald Trump and other Republicans. Chiames, the Whitefish spokesman, has

said that Colonnella's political donations were "irrelevant" and that the company would cooperate with any federal authorities.

This week, Rep. Rob Bishop, the Utah Republican who heads the House Natural Resources Committee, sent the power company director a letter demanding documents, including those related to the contract with Whitefish and others that show what authority the agency has to deviate from normal contracting processes.

"Transparent accountability at (the power company) is necessary for an effective and sustained recovery in Puerto Rico," his office said in a statement.

A federal control board that oversees Puerto Rico's finances announced this week that retired Air Force Col. Noel Zamot will be in charge of power reconstruction efforts. Rossello and other officials have rejected the appointment, saying the local government is in charge of a power company that is \$9 billion in debt and had struggled with outages before hurricanes Irma and Maria last month.

Overdrive

AUTO

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

It was an offer too good to refuse: Take a helicopter ride and spend the day driving the unpaved back roads of Santa Catalina Island in an SUV.

It didn't matter that the exploring would be done in a Mitsubishi. With an invitation to explore some of the "no cars allowed" dirt roads of Catalina, just off the Southern California coast, I'd have shown up for a Ford Pinto.

I was pleasantly surprised. Mitsubishi's new plug-in hybrid Outlander is a competent, comfortable compact sport utility vehicle.

Executives at the Japanese car company call the Outlander PHEV a "halo car"—a vehicle that will create buzz and attract new buyers to the brand. They boast that it's the first plug-in hybrid crossover in this class of vehicles, and the only one with all-wheel drive.

Though it looks like a conventional Outlander on the outside, the PHEV model is missing the 2-liter, 2.4-liter or 3.0-liter engines that drive the gas-powered Outlanders.

Instead, the PHEV is powered by a 12kwh lithium battery that drives two 60kw electric motors—one on the front axle, one on the rear—resulting in what Mitsubishi calls "super all-wheel control." It's paired with 2-liter gasoline engine.

The battery-only range, not yet certified by the EPA, is expected to be comparable to luxury hybrid crossovers made by Volvo, BMW and



The 2018 Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV is paired with 2-liter gasoline engine.

other companies—around 14 miles between charges.

But the Outlander is also one of only a few plug-in hybrids that come standard with the hardware that allows Level 2 charging. Mitsubishi claims the SUV's onboard lithium-ion battery can be charged to full capacity in four hours or less on this type of charger—or about twice that long on a standard household 120-volt system.

Because it's a hybrid and not a pure electric vehicle, there is no range anxiety. The Outlander PHEV is fitted with a 2-liter gasoline-burning internal combustion engine that can provide propulsion to the vehicle or generate electricity to charge the battery.

Mitsubishi executives said

they believed the fuel economy would be about 54 miles per gallon equivalent.

Many potential buyers won't care about those mpg or mpg-e numbers. They'll be more interested in knowing the PHEV status qualifies the Outlander for HOV access.

On the road, at the low speeds allowable on Catalina Island's few paved roads, the Outlander felt solid and planted. The "super all-wheel control" creates the feel and maneuverability of a smaller car—allowing for a very tight turning radius and nimble feel while cornering.

Climbing the steep dirt roads, the five-seater was smooth and quiet. The suspension smoothed out the washboard and potholes. It was

often difficult to tell when the gasoline engine was engaged and when we were in all-electric mode.

One of the Mitsubishi guides had told us that Catalina, beyond the little harbor town of Avalon, was completely uninhabited, and that we could expect to see bison, foxes and possibly deer running free.

We did. One great shaggy buffalo was loitering by a shimmering water hole, like a paid background artist abandoned by the movie company that brought the bison to the island in the first place.

We caught a more fleeting glance of a furtive island fox—scientific name Urocyon littoralis—representative of a species native to Catalina

and the surrounding Channel Islands.

Though we scanned the cactus-dotted hills for more wildlife, we saw only the occasional hiker or cyclist until we were nearly back into Avalon. I spotted a broad-antlered deer taking the shade behind the city's stately hillside bell tower.

By then, we had been exposed to more of the PHEV's attributes. At a photo stop at scenic Shark Harbor, the Mitsubishi people were demonstrating the PHEV's ability to use its battery pack to run a plug-in appliance—such as sound systems, entertainment systems or, in this case, a blender for making roadside smoothies.

Mitsubishi has set the suggested retail price low on the two trim levels for the Outlander PHEV, hoping to draw car shoppers looking at the more expensive BMW X5, Volvo XC90, Mercedes-Benz GLE or Porsche Cayenne.

(Those shoppers in the future may be looking at the just-announced 2019 Range Rover P400e Plug-in Hybrid, too.)

The SEL version will start at \$35,530. The GT version will start at \$41,235.

Mitsubishi executives noted that the plug-in hybrid price is not much higher than the gasoline Outlander equivalent, and is much lower after federal and state rebates and tax incentives are factored in. Those credits could amount to \$7,000 or more for California residents.

But the company has a challenge. Mitsubishi, which currently offers only the Mirage and Lancer sedans in its vehicle lineup—though it will soon introduce its Eclipse Cross for the 2018 model year—is generally last-to-mind among car shoppers whose awareness of Japanese companies may be limited to Toyota, Honda, Subaru, Nissan and Mazda.

As Mitsubishi's senior director of marketing, Francine Harsini, said, "We have a great product but not enough people know who we are or what we have to offer."

That may be why Mitsubishi expects to sell fewer than 4,000 Outlander PHEVs a year in the U.S., though about 100,000 units have been sold in Japan and Europe since the model was introduced in 2014.

UNDER THE HOOD: A tire-pressure puzzle

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: Here's an odd problem to consider: My car just began showing a low tire pressure warning for the left front tire. It said it was down to 31 pounds. The other three were 35. I added air at the machine at my gas station. The gauge on the hose said it was at 35, so I figured it was wrong and added about 5 pounds. Then when I'm driving home, the message said my front tire was still low but my rear tire now had 39 pounds. I'm planning to buy a tire gauge to try to see what is really going on. Why would the car do this?

—Becky C.

A: Good move buying a pressure gauge! I have a hunch that when you last had your

tires rotated, the tire pressure monitoring system sensor matching procedure (also called re-registering) wasn't performed, or the procedure wasn't successful. And I'm guessing your car isn't one that automatically identifies the proper wheels after they've been switched around. Direct tire pressure monitoring systems, or TPMSs, employ a battery-powered sensor/transmitter in each wheel, right behind the valve stem.

On vehicles that require a relearn procedure, it can vary widely, even within a car brand (I found 26 differing procedures for just GM vehicles!) Some require a reset request to be made using the driver info panel, then a lengthy road test or sequential (temporary) dropping or increasing of each tire's pres-

sure. Others require the use of a scan tool to access the system, and/or a re-learn tool, or magnet that prompts each TPMS sensor to identify itself to the system. There are a dizzying number of possible procedures! A good way a consumer can check for the possibility of a DIY-no tool procedure is to go to www.tpmss.com. Select "resources," then TPMS "reset and relearn." Choose the manufacturer, and the needed info is provided.

Performing a monthly physical check of all four tires can keep one safely inbounds with either an unmatched system or an indirect TPMS system that might not indicate which tire is low. Indirect systems look at the anti-lock brake system's wheel speed sensors to infer a low tire (rolls faster than siblings due

A: This may be tough to fix yourself. The code P0401 indicates insufficient exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) flow. The cause could be a faulty EGR valve, a fault in its control method, or carbon clogged within either a slender exhaust feed tube or intake manifold passage. During typical driving, a small quantity of exhaust is routed back through the engine a second time to reduce combustion temperature (exhaust is inert, takes up space that

would have been air and fuel).

On older vacuum-controlled EGR systems, applying vacuum to the EGR valve while at engine idle should result in a dramatic slowdown or the engine dying. If the vacuum holds but limited slow-down occurs, the fault is either a stuck valve or clogged passage. Removal and inspection should confirm which. Newer vehicles employing an electric EGR are best tested by commanding the valve open with a scan tool while observing idle quality and/or the valve position sensor, MAP sensor, or exhaust pressure sensor. Unfortunately, there are so many variations in EGR systems from car to car, and test methods, the best I can do is provide this limited overview. Don't throw parts at it! A pro with an emissions test license should be able to diagnose this blindfolded!

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV

- Quick take: Capable SUV with plug-in technology
- Highs: Quiet, comfortable, rechargeable
- Lows: Do many people want a plug-in SUV?
- Vehicle type: Four-door, five-passenger crossover
- Base price: \$35,530
- Price as tested: \$41,235
- Powertrain: Twin 60kw electric motors paired with 2-liter gasoline engine
- Transmission: Single speed, all-wheel drive
- Horsepower: 197
- Torque: 137 pound-feet front, 144 rear
- EPA fuel economy rating: Not yet available

Life & Style

Thurgood Marshall movie faithful to the facts, and the man

WASHINGTON (AP)—Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall's widow, Cecilia, has seen two showings of the new movie "Marshall" about her late husband. She liked it, but had one observation about actor Chadwick Boseman, who plays the civil rights pioneer and legal giant.

"He's a very good-looking man, but he's not as handsome as my husband was," she told her son John after seeing the film, he said.

The question of looks aside, what moviegoers get in "Marshall" is a film faithful to the facts and to the man, according to those who have studied the real-life Connecticut rape case from 1941 and those who knew Marshall. He died in 1993 at age 84.

Michael Koskoff, a lawyer

who wrote the screenplay with his son, says he began with the information he had about the case, then filled in the gaps.

In early 1941, Marshall was in Bridgeport, Connecticut, to represent Joseph Spell, a black chauffeur accused by his wealthy, white employer of rape. Because Marshall was an out-of-state attorney, he enlisted the help of a local lawyer, Sam Friedman, who was white and had expertise in trying civil cases, not criminal ones.

The movie, which came out this month, shows a 32-year-old Marshall, with one Supreme Court argument under his belt and more than a decade before his victory in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case that outlawed segregation in public schools. Koskoff said there is "nothing

particularly significant" about the case depicted in the movie, but it is representative of the legal work Marshall was doing in the early 1940s on behalf of the NAACP: traveling around the United States to defend black men accused of crimes, and doing it at great personal risk.

Koskoff said he reviewed old newspaper articles, investigators' notes and what remained of court files. He looked at letters between Marshall and co-counsel Friedman and notes Marshall took during jury selection.

There was no transcript of the court proceedings. As a result, much of the courtroom dialogue is made up, as is the nature of the relationship between the two lawyers.

The movie takes other factual liberties:

■ a court scene that opens the movie happened after, not before the Spell case.

■ in the movie, Spell's socialite employer claims she was raped twice; accounts from the time have her saying it was three times.

■ Friedman was slender and athletic, not the heavyset character played by Josh Gad.

■ Friedman's daughter Lauren, who was also involved in the movie, said one thing the film doesn't show was that the night of the verdict, her parents had left town because of death threats.

But more is accurate than not in the film, including even details about minor characters. "Some of the things you would think are not true were true," Koskoff said, referencing a point in the movie where

Friedman, in the courtroom, demonstrates being gagged.

Details moviegoers learn about Marshall's life also are correct, including the fact that his first wife, Vivian "Buster" Marshall, suffered multiple miscarriages before her death from cancer in 1955. It wasn't until his second marriage, to Cecilia Suyat, that he became a father.

One of their two boys, John Marshall, reviewed multiple drafts of the movie's script and helped the scriptwriters capture his dad. John Marshall said the film's director, Reginald Hudlin, called him half a dozen times asking whether certain details were right, down to whether his father smoked. The filmmakers faithfully captured his father's sense of humor, his confidence and his mastery of the

law, John Marshall said.

University of Maryland law professor Larry Gibson, a Marshall biographer, agreed that the movie's creators got how Marshall carried himself. "Life hung on him kind of loosely," he said.

Susan Low Bloch, a Georgetown professor who clerked for Marshall at the Supreme Court, said the movie captured the personality, sense of humor and thoroughness of the Marshall she knew.

Moviegoers who linger in the theater through the credits will get to hear Marshall himself in a bit of old audio. He says in part: "You know, there are so many people, indeed my own sons at times, look at me with an expression on their face that they don't believe what happened in the past."

'Thor: Ragnarok' takes the god to funny heights



This image released by Marvel Studios shows the Hulk, from left, Chris Hemsworth as Thor, Tessa Thompson as Valkyrie and Tom Hiddleston as Loki in a scene from, "Thor: Ragnarok."

MARVEL STUDIOS VIA AP

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

In the stand-alone films of the Marvel Cinematic Universe Thor always seemed to get the short end of the stick. The Thor films were never as popular as Iron Man, and didn't gain steam like Captain America. They were perhaps a little too serious and a little too dull—none of which was the fault of star Chris Hemsworth, whose performances in the role have been so seamless and charming that he almost doesn't get enough credit.

But "Thor: Ragnarok" has been touted as a different take on the God of Thunder. Marvel Studios and The Walt Disney

Co. signed up a voice-y director in New Zealand's Taika Waititi, whose riotous vampire mockumentary "What We Do In The Shadows" displayed a unique comedic sensibility. They took away Thor's hammer, gave him a haircut, added some Led Zeppelin and told the set designer the more neon rainbows the better.

The results are pretty decent, though perhaps not the total departure that had been hyped.

The bones of the story are preposterous as ever. It turns out Thor has a long lost older sister, Hela (Cate Blanchett), who his father Odin (Anthony Hopkins, who appears to have shot for about two hours)

locked away because she was so dangerous. An event happens that releases Hela to the world. She's really strong, like stronger than Thor strong, and really angry and basically punches Thor into another dimension and she heads off to Asgard to take the throne.

The movie literally splits in two at this point. Poor Blanchett, who has gone full vamp as Hela, is good as always but how lame it must be to be in the "fun" Thor movie and have to play one of the most blandly written villains ever. While she's off waging her deathly serious takeover, Thor gets to join an irreverent comedy sideshow on the planet Sakaar—a sort

of wasteland at the end of the universe run by a Grade-A weirdo who calls himself Grandmaster, played, fittingly, by Jeff Goldblum.

It's this section that is pretty amusing and where Waititi's irreverence really gets to shine with pratfalls and witty writing. It's no surprise that this is right up Goldblum's alley, but the real delight is Hemsworth who knows just how to subvert the Thor character without turning him into a total mockery. He's a real comedic talent, which audiences got a taste of in "Ghostbusters." And Tessa Thompson is fantastic as Valkyrie, a hard drinkin' fighter with a secret past she'd rather forget.

I imagine "Thor: Ragnarok" is one that might improve on subsequent viewings, when you have a chance to relax with the jokes divorced from the pressure of juggling the silly/serious plot. But it's a fairly flawed movie on the whole with egregious tonal shifts. Some of the gags go on too long with the Hulk with too little payoff and sometimes it seems as though there's a mandate that every 25 minutes there will be a big fight no matter what.

While Waititi's energy and wit is apparent in the film, it still feels as though he had to operate from the same Marvel "base flavor" and was allowed on occasion to sprinkle a few of his own original toppings on.

"Thor: Ragnarok" is the most fun of the Thor movies by a long shot, but it is still very much a Thor movie for better or worse.

"Thor," a Walt Disney Studios release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "intense sequences of sci-fi violence and action, and brief suggestive material." Running time: 130 minutes.

UK to investigate minister who asked aide to buy sex toys

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Cabinet Office will investigate whether an international trade minister breached conduct rules by asking his secretary to buy sex toys as widening allegations of sexual harassment roil Parliament.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt said Mark Garnier will face an investigation after the minister's former secretary told The Mail on Sunday that Garnier gave her money to buy two vibrators at a Soho sex shop and called her a disparaging name in front of witnesses.

"The facts of (the report) are in dispute, so the Cabinet Office are going to look at it and see if there is a breach," Hunt told ITV's Peston on Sunday program.

The investigation comes as Britain's political establishment faces increasing scrutiny over allegations of sexual harassment. The soul-searching follows the scandal surrounding



In this file photo dated Aug. 18, 2017, British International Trade Minister Mark Garnier, who has been caught up in the Westminster sexism storm, is announced Sunday Oct. 29, 2017.

Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, who was fired after The New York Times published an exposé that detailed decades of complaints against him.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove was forced to apologize Saturday after he attempted to joke about Weinstein during a radio interview. Meanwhile, women working in the British Parliament have reportedly created message groups to warn colleagues about harassment.

Hunt said Prime Minister Theresa May would be writing to the Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, to develop a plan to change the culture at Parliament.

"I think people at home will be quite angry about this because, a bit like the Harvey Weinstein stuff, Parliament, like Hollywood, is very good at preaching to people what they ought to be doing and how they ought to be behaving. But I'm afraid

this shows that in our own backyard we don't live up to the high standards that we would expect others to," Hunt told ITV.

Garnier's former secretary, Caroline Edmondson, told The Mail on Sunday that he gave her money to buy two vibrators—one for his wife and one for a woman in his constituency office.

Garnier acknowledged that the incident took place but vehemently denied it constituted sexual harassment. However, he conceded that in the current climate his actions could be seen as "dinosaur behavior."

"I'm not going to deny it, because I'm not going to be dishonest," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "I'm going to have to take it on the chin."

Garnier said the toys were purchased when he and Edmondson were out shopping after a Christmas lunch, and he told her it was not a good idea.

"The vibrator shop was hijinks," he said. "I hung around outside and she went into this shop. That was it."

Garnier did not respond to a request for comment sent to his parliamentary office.

Clooney's 'Suburbicon' tanks, 'Saw' sequel No. 1 with \$16.3M

NEW YORK (AP)—George Clooney's "Suburbicon" notched one of the most dismal wide-release debuts in recent years on a sluggish pre-Halloween weekend where the horror sequel "Jigsaw" topped all releases despite an underperforming debut.

The eighth "Saw" film landed at No. 1 with \$16.3 million in North American ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. That came in below industry expectations and

1. "Jigsaw," \$16.3 million (\$9.5 million).
2. "Boo 2! A Madea Halloween," \$10 million.
3. "Geostorm," \$5.7 million (\$49.3 million).
4. "Happy Death Day," \$5.1 million (\$4.7 million international).
5. "Blade Runner 2049," \$4 million (\$16.6 million international).
6. "Thank You for Your Service," \$3.7 million.
7. "Only the Brave," \$3.5 million.
8. "The Foreigner," \$3.2 million (\$1.2 million international).
9. "Suburbicon," \$2.8 million.
10. "It," \$2.5 million (\$6.3 million international).

suggested the revived "Saw" franchise isn't connecting with audiences the way other recent horror entries have.

In its first release since the Harvey Weinstein scandal began unfolding, the beleaguered Weinstein Co. feebly released a horror sequel of its own: "Amityville: The Awakening." It played in an unusual Saturday-only engagement on just 10 screens, and grossed a mere \$742.

"Jigsaw" distributor Lionsgate also claimed the No. 2 spot with \$10 million in the second week of release for "Tyler Perry's Boo 2! A Madea Halloween."

Made for about \$10 million, "Jigsaw" comes seven years after the notoriously gruesome franchise—famously dubbed "torture porn"—bid adieu with "Saw 3D: The Final Chapter."

Critics weren't happy to see its



This file image released by Paramount Pictures shows Julianne Moore, left, and Matt Damon in a scene from "Suburbicon."

return, giving "Jigsaw" a 39 percent Rotten Tomatoes score. The Hollywood Reporter said the film "now feels like an outlier in a horror marketplace dominated by films that typically favor spooks over spurs." Opening-weekend moviegoers also weren't overwhelmed, giving the film a modest B CinemaScore.

But that rating still easily surpassed the D-minus grade that greeted Clooney's latest directorial effort. Despite debuting on more than 2,000 screens, "Suburbicon" managed just \$2.8 million, making it one of Paramount Pictures' worst performing wide-releases ever and marking a new box-office low for Clooney as a director and star Matt Damon.

"Obviously we are disappointed in these results which we don't feel are indicative of the quality and message of his original movie," said Kyle Davies, president of distribution for Paramount.

"Suburbicon," which debuted at the Venice Film Festival, was crafted as a fusion between an old Joel and Ethan Coen home-invasion comedy script and a more pointed satire of racism in a 1959 suburb. Critics didn't respond well to the mix, either; its Rotten Tomatoes score is just 26 percent fresh.

Paramount paid \$10 million for domestic distribution rights for the Black Bear Pictures production, made for about \$25 million. The studio has recently backed several divisive releases from respected filmmakers, including Darren Aronofsky's "mother!" which also sputtered at the box office and garnered an even worse F CinemaScore.

The Miles Teller PTSD drama "Thank You For Your Service," directed by "American Sniper" writer Jason Hall, also opened weakly with \$3.7 million in 2,054 theaters for DreamWorks and Universal.

Business overall was slow ahead of Halloween. Weekend ticket sales totaled about \$75 million, according to comScore, making it the second-lowest grossing frame of the year in the U.S. and Canada.

But overseas, where "Thor: Ragnarok" began its worldwide rollout, was a different story. The Disney release grossed \$107.6 million internationally from about 52 percent of the marketplace. The "Thor" sequel opens in North America, China and elsewhere on Friday.

Yet a release in China couldn't rescue the box-office disappointment "Blade Runner 2049." Denis Villeneuve's film, starring Ryan Gosling and Harrison Ford, added \$16.6 million overseas this weekend, including its China debut. The film, distributed by Warner Bros. in North America and Sony internationally, has earned \$223.4 million globally in three weeks of release.

Jane Juska, who wrote about late-in-life sex, dies at 84

CHICO, Calif. (AP)—Jane Juska, whose chronicle of searching for sex as a woman in her 60s became a best-selling memoir and later a stage show, has died in California. She was 84.

Juska died Oct. 24 at a Chico care facility after a long illness, her son, Andy Juska, told the San Francisco Chronicle for a story Saturday.

She was a retired and divorced schoolteacher living in Berkeley, California, when she wrote her memoir, "A Round-Heeled Woman: My Late-Life Adventures in Sex and Romance," published in 2003.

Inspiration for the book came after Juska took out a personal ad in the New York Review of Books that said: "Before I turn 67, next March, I would like to have a lot of sex with a man I like. If you want to talk first, Trollope works for me."

Juska found herself with numerous responses from men of all ages that led to flings that she said changed her life.

"I was just bubbling," she told the Chronicle in a 2003 profile. At first she considered turning her experiences into a novel, but she eventually decided to tell the true stories. Her tales of dating and romance became the memoir, which was titled after an antiquated term for a promiscuous woman.

The best-seller landed her on TV with Oprah Winfrey and Charlie Rose and was adapted into a one-woman show starring Sharon Gless that was performed in San Francisco, Miami and London.

"She was funny & brave," Gless said on Twitter about Juska. "I loved her very much."

Spacey apologizes after actor accuses him of past harassment

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Kevin Spacey said Sunday he is “beyond horrified” by allegations that he made sexual

advances on a teen boy decades ago.

The two-time Oscar winner posted on Twitter that he

doesn’t remember the encounter. “But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years,” he said.

In an interview with BuzzFeed, actor Anthony Rapp said Spacey befriended him while they both performed on Broadway shows. Rapp was 14 when he attended

a party at Spacey’s apartment in 1986, he said. At the end of the night, an inebriated Spacey picked him up, placed him on his bed, and climbed on top of him, Rapp said.

Rapp said the Spacey



26-year-old was holding him down tightly, but he was able to get away and left the apartment.

Rapp, who is now 46 and starring in the TV show “Star

Trek: Discovery”, said he came forward after allegations against Harvey Weinstein sparked conversations about sexual abuse and harassment in the entertainment industry.

Spacey, who is now 58, spoke publicly about his sexual orientation for the first time Sunday on Twitter.

“As those closest to me know, in my life I have had re-

lationships with both men and women,” he said. “I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man.”

Spacey, who has fiercely protected his private life, had never disclosed his sexuality before but said Rapp’s story encouraged him to speak.

“I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior,” he said.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Viral photos of college student spurs modeling agency calls

PLYMOUTH, N.H. (AP)—Two photographs of a New Hampshire college student that have gone viral on social media are bringing her dreams of becoming a model closer to reality. Anok Yai grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire, and is a sophomore at Plymouth State University. The Boston Globe reports that a photographer took photos of her for his Instagram account about a week ago while she was at a homecoming event at Howard University in Washington. He said he was photographing people with nice outfits. The photos had been liked more than 11,000 times by Sunday, and Yai said last week she’s heard from three modeling agencies. The biochemistry student says she’s always been interested in fashion and art, but modeling was a dream she didn’t think would ever happen.

UK official apologizes for Harvey Weinstein remark

LONDON (AP)—A British Cabinet minister has apologized after joking that being interviewed by a senior BBC radio presenter was like “going into Harvey Weinstein’s bedroom.” Environment Secretary Michael Gove sent a tweet apologizing “unreservedly” for making a “clumsy attempt at humour” when the BBC’s John Humphrys, known for his tough interviewing style, asked what it was like to appear on the net-

work’s flagship morning radio program “Today.” Gove replied: “Sometimes I think going into the studio with you, John, is a bit like going into Harvey Weinstein’s bedroom. You just pray you emerge with your dignity intact.” Female U.K. political leaders, including Scotland’s First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, were aghast. Sturgeon tweeted that “women being abused and raped is not a laughing matter. And it doesn’t make us ‘humourless’ to say so.”

CA congresswoman describes harassment ordeal in online video

WASHINGTON (AP)—A California congresswoman says she was grabbed and kissed years ago as a Capitol Hill aide. And she’s urging staffers to share their stories of sexual harassment on a new hashtag, #MeTooCongress. Jackie Speier posted a video on Twitter and YouTube describing the incident and asking others to share their stories. The 67-year-old Democrat says, “Congress has been a breeding ground for a hostile work environment for far too long.” She says as a House aide, the chief of staff “held my face, kissed me and stuck his tongue in my mouth.” She says it’s time to reveal “the repulsive behavior that until now has thrived in the dark.”

Speier’s action comes three weeks after reports detailed allegations of decades of sexual harassment by Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

WWII veteran laid to rest in Illinois, 73 years after death

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Relatives of a World War II veteran who died in a 1944 battle in the Netherlands that was part of an Allied campaign later depicted in the movie “A Bridge Too Far” have laid his remains to rest in central Illinois.

Mourners gathered at Springfield’s Camp Butler National Cemetery for Saturday’s funeral for U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Aiello.

Aiello’s great-grandnephew, Brian Aiello, said the family now has a sense of relief, but there’s also sadness because

many older relatives who knew Aiello have passed away during the last 15 to 20 years.

“We really wanted them to be here for this moment. It’s bittersweet, but it’s nice that he’s at least home now,” he told The State Journal-Register.

Military records show Aiello was 35 when he went missing on Sept. 30, 1944, during intense fighting in the Kiekberg Woods near the Waal River bridge at Nijmegen.

The military later issued a presumptive finding of death. His remains were exhumed

Showtime drops Halperin from program ‘The Circus’

NEW YORK (AP)—Another media outlet has cut ties with Mark Halperin.

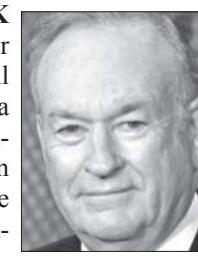


Showtime released a brief statement Saturday saying Halperin would not be brought back as a host of “The Circus” should the political program be renewed. “The Circus” has two run seasons, and featured Halperin, John Heilemann and Mark McKinnon.

Since allegations emerged this week that Halperin ha-

rassed numerous women while at ABC in the 1990s and 2000s, Penguin Press has canceled a book that Halperin and Heilemann were writing about the 2016 election and HBO called off a planned adaptation of the book. The journalist also has been suspended from his role as an MSNBC contributor.

Halperin has apologized on Twitter, saying he is “profoundly sorry for the pain and anguish” he caused.



O'Reilly

cule, disgrace, and permanent harm to his professional and personal reputations” as a result of the post, according to the court document.

In a Facebook post earlier this week, Panter wrote that his ex-girlfriend, a Fox employee he didn’t name, had settled a claim against O'Reilly and was bound by a non-disclosure agreement. But he said he felt compelled to speak out after hearing “O'Reilly spinning his falsehoods almost daily.”

Panter then detailed a phone conversation between the girlfriend and O'Reilly in which, according to Panter, O'Reilly asked her if she knew anything about another accuser's sex life and use of illegal drugs.

“In essence, the leadership of Fox ... was demanding information to attack another victim,” he wrote.

Runaway dad on dating site is guilty of false advertising

DEAR ABBY: Last year I had a baby with one of my college professors. He left me 10 days before our daughter was born and has never met her. I chased him through family court, and he gives me the bare minimum in state-ordered support.

Recently, I spotted him advertising himself on a dating website as a loving man and describing how he loves his first daughter with no mention of ours (he has two other children, a girl and a boy). How do I move past this? A part of me is angry for her, but I’m also angry for myself. I’m in therapy, but seeing him on a dating website describing himself as a good person, when in truth he’s a sociopath, has reopened wounds I thought had closed months ago.

OPEN WOUNDS

DEAR OPEN WOUNDS: Thank you for writing to me, but this is a question you should be addressing with your psychotherapist. Sometimes it takes multiple doses of “medicine” to cure an ailment, but the longer you allow this man to occupy real estate in your head, the harder it will be for you to get on with your life. Call your therapist.

DEAR ABBY: I love my fiance with all my heart. We have

good friends and family. The problem is, my fiance loves to talk. He talks A LOT.

I’ve known this since I met him, but because I don’t talk much, it doesn’t bother me. I like listening to his stories. However, I can see our friends getting annoyed because of his constant talking. It also happens when we are around his family—and they usually end up treating him badly for it.

Is there any way I can gently talk to him about this so he’s aware that he is irritating people? I don’t want to hurt him, but I also don’t want him to annoy people. I’m also afraid it may affect his employment. His co-workers get that same look on their faces when he’s talking that his family members do when they are annoyed with him.

ENGAGED TO A BIG TALKER

DEAR ENGAGED: Your fiance may have difficulty picking up on social cues, which is why he doesn’t notice that others become annoyed as he drones on and on. You should absolutely point out to him what you have noticed, and tell him you are concerned that it may affect his employment. Then suggest he discuss his compulsive talking with a licensed mental health professional. This is not to imply there is anything “wrong” with him, but rather that he

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



may benefit from professional help in recognizing the social cues he is missing.

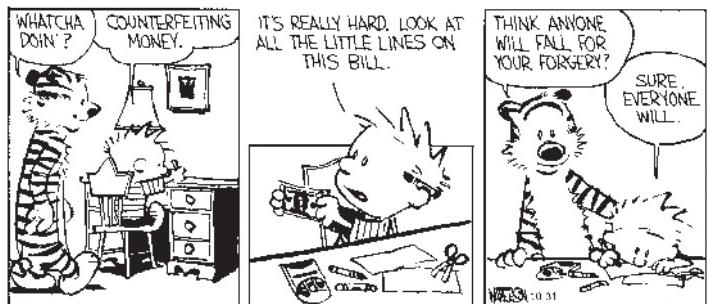
A NOTE TO PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN: Tonight is the night when wee witches and goblins will be out trick-or-treating. Please supervise them so they’ll be safe. Happy Halloween, everyone!

Love, ABBY

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in *“What Every Teen Should Know.”* Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



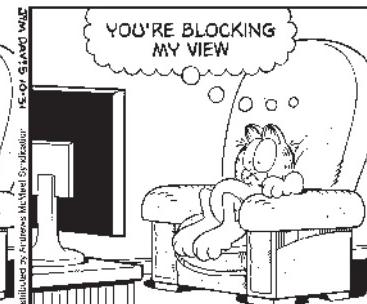
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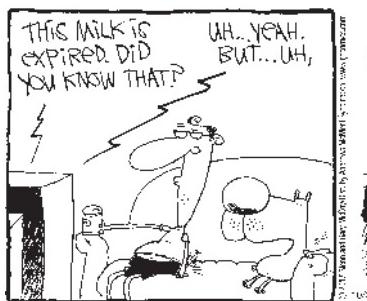


Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



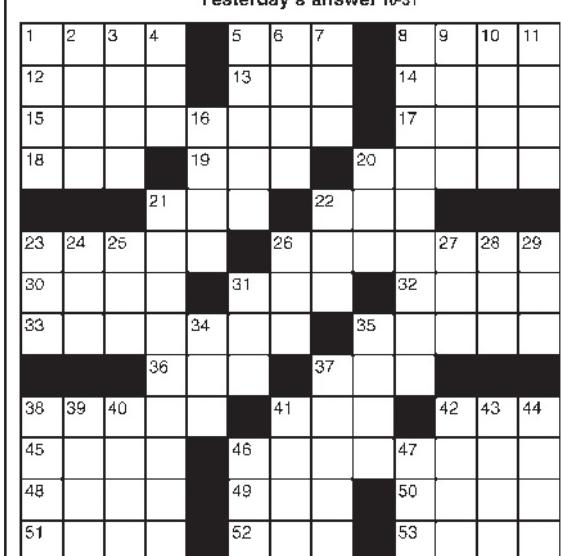
By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36	Like some humor	DOWN	21	Disaster at sea
1 Throat clearer			1 Admin. aide	22	Pair with an air
5 Tax prep pro	37	The Browns, on scoreboards	2 Jolly laugh	23	Wrestling surface
8 Leisurely			3 Actress Falco	24	Carte lead-in
12 Fizzy drink	38	Utter impulsively	4 Sailor's chart	25	Scoundrel
13 Paul Newman film	41	Dove's call	5 Mountain range	26	"Evita" narrator
14 Hawaiian city	42	Enjoy Vail	6 Knitting stitch	27	Decorate a cake
15 Boat-building site	45	One and only	7 Toss in	28	Raw mineral
17 Poker player's declaration	46	Cargo	8 In good order	29	Composer Rorem
18 Water tester	48	Outlet letters	9 Long ride?	31	Devious
19 Tin Man's need	49	Ump	10 Hodge-podge	34	Scrap
20 Frighten	50	Family biz abbr.	11 Policy expert	35	Sty chow
21 Thesaurus wd.	51	Volume	16 Vacillate	37	Hairstyles
22 Insult, slangily	52	Apr. addressee	20 Bro's	38	Spill the beans
23 Virile	53	"Dear —"	53 "Dear —" sib	39	Crazy
26 Pad				40	Nullify
30 Jai —				41	"Moonstruck" actress
31 HBO rival				42	Belgrade resident
32 Farm fraction				43	Handle
33 Baby frog				44	Teeny
35 Velocity				46	—Lanka
Solution time: 22 mins.					
Yesterday's answer 10-31					

**STUMPED?**

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	3	8	6	2	7
8			1		
9				8	4
1	5	8	6		
7	3				
3	2				6
	8			2	
8	5	4	3	9	

Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	4	2	1	7	9	8	3	6
7	9	1	3	8	6	5	4	2
3	8	6	2	5	4	9	7	1
4	2	9	6	1	3	7	8	5
8	1	3	5	2	7	6	9	4
6	7	5	9	4	8	1	2	3
2	6	4	8	9	5	3	1	7
9	3	7	4	6	1	2	5	8
1	5	8	7	3	2	4	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THINGS WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

Solution: 8 letters

S	V	R	L	S	K	C	A	N	S	C	I	U	M
H	E	E	E	O	K	R	O	W	I	S	L	E	P
E	H	G	N	T	V	T	E	K	N	A	B	N	S
L	I	R	A	I	A	E	Y	T	O	S	O	E	L
T	C	A	P	S	T	W	E	G	K	J	(R)	(I)	A
E	L	H	P	S	S	U	N	O	R	S	S	I	K
R	E	C	L	S	L	E	O	R	U	N	N	I	N
E	S	P	I	H	I	B	M	R	E	N	O	H	P
V	S	A	A	O	P	G	E	T	A	W	Y	S	N
O	E	R	N	P	P	N	U	E	X	P	T	S	I
T	R	E	C	P	E	C	O	F	F	E	L	P	W
S	D	N	E	I	R	F	V	A	C	T	O	N	
E	D	T	S	N	S	E	S	S	A	L	G	A	U
R	A	S	T	G	N	I	H	T	O	L	C	M	S
Y	L	I	M	A	F	I	N	E	S	S	E	E	M

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Yesterday's Answer: Ice Cream

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Astros rally past Dodgers, near World Series win

HOUSTON (AP)—Blast off! Jose Altuve, Carlos Correa and the Houston Astros kept hammering away in a wild slugfest that no one saw coming, rallying against Clayton Kershaw and rocking the Los Angeles Dodgers 13-12 in 10 thrilling innings Sunday night for a 3-2 lead in the World Series.

In a tension-filled game of monster momentum swings at pulsating Minute Maid Park, the last one belonged to Alex Bregman. With the packed crowd still standing well past midnight, Bregman hit an RBI single with two outs off Kenley Jansen to win it—finally—after 5 hours, 17 minutes.

“The best game ever, for sure,” Correa said

Wacky and whacky with seven home runs, this one perhaps topped Toronto’s 15-14 win over the Phillies in 1993 as the craziest World Series classic ever.

Altuve, Correa, Yuli Gurriel, George Springer and Brian McCann homered for Houston. Cody Bellinger and Yasiel Puig went deep for the Dodgers, who scored three times in the ninth to make it 12-all.

Silent when ace Dallas Keuchel got crushed, the orange-clad fans erupted over and over as the Astros sent balls careening all around—and out of—the park.

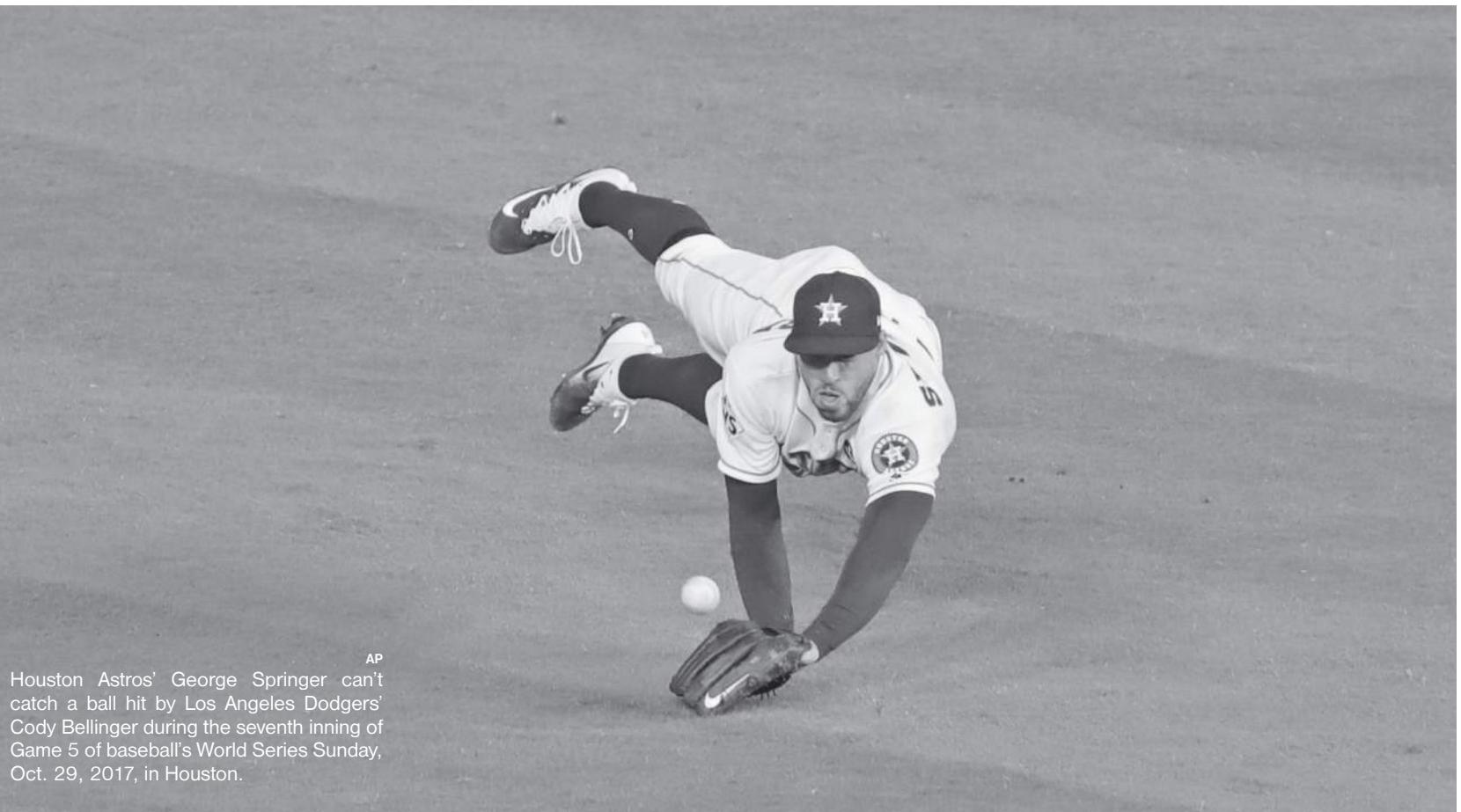
Yet on another night of Home Run Derby in the Year of the Home Run, no lead was safe.

Puig lined a two-run shot in the ninth, the record 22nd homer in a single Series, and Chris Taylor’s two-out single off Chris Devenski tied it.

Now, with both bullpens worn down, the teams get a day to recover. It’ll be Game 6 on Tuesday night at Dodger Stadium, where Justin Verlander will try to clinch the Astros’ first championship and Rich Hill hopes to save Los Angeles’ season.

With two outs in the 10th, Jansen hit McCann on the hand with a pitch and Springer walked. Bregman, who homered off Jansen in Saturday night’s loss, lined the next pitch over shortstop to score pinch-runner Derek Fisher, who slid home ahead of the throw from left fielder Andre Ethier.

“I got him on a slider last night, so I knew he wasn’t go-



AP
Houston Astros' George Springer can't catch a ball hit by Los Angeles Dodgers' Cody Bellinger during the seventh inning of Game 5 of baseball's World Series Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017, in Houston.

ing to throw that,” Bregman said. “Looking for a cutter. Correa, all our hitting coaches, they all said, ‘Hey, you better stay on top of that cutter.’ Tried to stay on top, and we’re up 3-2, baby.”

Out of nowhere, the Astros climbed out of a four-run hole against Kershaw and then erased two more deficits later in the game, tying it each time on a homer.

Correa leaped and twirled after launching a two-run drive made it 11-8 in the seventh. McCann’s shot in the eighth added a much-needed insurance run.

Bellinger homered for Los Angeles, a three-run drive in the fifth that made it 7-4 and seemed to swing things back in the Dodgers’ favor. By the end of the mayhem on the mound, it was a mere afterthought.

The Astros (13) and Dodgers (9) topped the Series mark for homers, set when Barry Bonds and the Giants lost to the Angels in seven games in 2002.

But really, who imagined this?

No wonder there’s a bright

sign high above the center field wall for a popular taco place in town—it says Torchy and fit perfectly for a game where pitchers got lit up.

A day earlier, Kershaw stood alone on the mound after the Dodgers’ dramatic

win in Game 4, trying to get a visual for the biggest start of his career.

This was definitely not how he pictured it.

The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner cruised into the fourth with a 4-0 lead

before things suddenly fell apart. After Correa hit an RBI double, Gurriel hit a tying, three-run drive.

Kershaw whipped his head around to watch Gurriel’s drive sail, his face immediately showing shock, utter disbelief and frustration, all wrapped up in one expression before he bent over, hands on his knees.

Yanked in the fifth, Kershaw trudged off with a dubious distinction—he has allowed a postseason-record eight home runs this year.

Hardly a repeat performance from the opener, when Ker-

shaw dominated while out-pitching Keuchel for a 3-1 win.

Gurriel’s second homer of the Series also kept open this possibility: Imagine the scene if Major League Baseball presents Gurriel with the MVP trophy, so soon after Commissioner Rob Manfred suspended him for the first five games next year for making a racist gesture toward Dodgers pitcher Yu Darvish.

Keuchel never got into a rhythm during the shortest home start of his All-Star career. His breaking pitches spun without much movement, and he was pulled in the fourth.

Logan Forsythe did the early damage against his former University of Arkansas teammate. A Series surprise, Forsythe lined a two-out, two-run single in the first, and doubled and scored in the fourth for a 4-0 lead.

The Dodgers hadn’t lost a game this year when they led by four runs. But Kershaw’s bedeviling postseason past came back to haunt him at the worst time.

Kershaw was pulled after a pair of two-out walks in the bottom of the fifth. And with crowd sensing something big, the 5-foot-6 Altuve connected off Kenta Maeda for a home run that made it 7-all.

2 last Wednesday the Astros got even in the ninth inning when Marwin Gonzalez homered in the ninth off Jansen for a 3-3 tie.

That was the first-ever blown save in the postseason for Jansen, and the Astros went on to win 7-6 in 11 innings and avoid coming home in an 0-2 deficit.

Jansen led the NL with 41 saves in the regular season, his third career 40-save season, and his 1.32 ERA was the best in the majors for a reliever.

Jansen's 2nd blown save has Dodgers down

HOUSTON (AP)—Kenley Jansen had been almost automatic for the Los Angeles Dodgers—until the World Series.

The big closer, who blew only one save during the regular season and was recognized this weekend as the National League’s top reliever for the second year in a row, had his second blown save in the World Series and the Dodgers are going home in a hole.

Jansen worked around a two-out double in the ninth, but Alex Bregman’s RBI sin-

gle with two outs in the 10th inning gave the Houston Astros a 13-12 victory in Game 5 to take a 3-2 series lead.

Brian McCann had reached with two outs in the 10th when he got hit by a pitch, a ball that struck him on his right forearm and rolled up to also catch him on the hand.

That inside pitch came immediately after McCann had almost ended the game, turning on a pitch and pulling it deep down the right field line and foul.

The Astros catcher initial-

ly stayed in the game after manager A.J. Hinch and a trainer came out to check on him. But Derek Fisher took over as a pinch-runner at second base after George Springer drew a walk, and Fisher raced home with the winning run on Bregman’s liner to left.

Bregman had hit a solo homer off Jansen in the ninth inning of Game 4 on Saturday night, but that was in a 6-2 Dodgers victory.

Game 6 is Tuesday night in Los Angeles, where in Game

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dave Martinez

will get a chance to try to do what no Washington Nationals manager has accomplished: win a postseason series with the club.

Martinez agreed to a three-year contract plus an option with the Nationals, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on

Nationals, Dave Martinez agree to managerial deal

Sunday, for a job that will make him a skipper in the majors for the first time.

The person described the contract to the AP on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been announced.

The 53-year-old Martinez has been the bench coach for

manager Joe Maddon for the past decade. The two were together with the Chicago Cubs for the past three seasons, including that team’s 2016 World Series championship.

Before that, Martinez worked for Maddon with the Tampa Bay Rays.

Martinez replaces Dusty

Baker as Washington’s manager.

Baker was let go a little more than a week ago. He had been given only a two-year contract and was dismissed after leading the Nationals to two NL East titles—with 95 wins in 2016 and 97 wins in 2017.

Bryce Harper, Max Scherzer, Stephen Strasburg and the rest of the Nationals were eliminated with a one-run loss in Game 5 of an NL Division Series each time—including by the Cubs this year.

The Nationals have won four division titles since 2012 but have yet to win a play-

off series, knocked out in an NLDS each time. Martinez is Washington’s sixth manager in a 10-season span.

Martinez played for nine major league franchises over 16 years, including four seasons with the Montreal Expos, the team that moved to Washington in 2005 and became the Nationals. Martinez was mostly an outfielder. He retired as a player in 2001.

Eagles move to best record with victory vs 49ers



PHILADELPHIA—Carson Wentz tossed two touchdown passes, Jalen Mills had a pick-6 and the NFL-leading Philadelphia Eagles beat the winless San Francisco 49ers 33-10 on a sloppy, rainy Sunday.

The Eagles (7-1) overcame a slow start on their way to a sixth straight win. The 49ers are 0-8 for the first time in franchise history.

Wentz was 18 of 32 for 211 yards and one interception. He threw a 53-yard TD pass to Alshon Jeffery and 1-yard TD pass to Zach Ertz. He leads the NFL with 19 TD passes, most by an Eagles quarterback through eight games.

C.J. Beathard shovelled a 21-yard TD pass to Matt Breida and finished 17 of 36 for 167 yards with two interceptions in his second career start.

The Eagles punted on six of their first eight possessions before opening it up in the third quarter.

Wentz hit Jeffery with a perfect pass to extend the lead to 27-7. After Derek Barnett blocked Robbie Gould's field goal, the Eagles drove 62 yards and LeGarrette Blount ran in from the 12 for a 33-7 lead.

Steelers 20, Lions 15

In Detroit, JuJu Smith-Schuster scored on a 97-yard touchdown pass from Ben Roethlisberger late in the third quarter and the Steelers forced the Lions to turn the ball over on downs twice.

The AFC North-leading Steelers (6-2) go into their bye week with a three-game winning streak.

Detroit (3-4) was coming off its bye and lost a third straight and fourth in five games.

Vikings 33, Browns 16

In London, Case Keenum threw for two touchdowns and Kai Forbath made four field goals in the last of four games held this season in Britain.

Adam Thielen had five catches for 98 yards and a touchdown for the NFC North-leading Vikings (6-2), who trailed 13-12 at halftime/

Seahawks 41, Texans 38

In Seattle, Russell Wilson hit Jimmy Graham for an 18-yard touchdown with 21 seconds left, his second TD catch of the fourth quarter.

Down 38-34 with 1:39 left and out of timeouts, Wilson took Seattle 80 yards in barely a minute. He hit Paul Richardson for 48 yards on a jump ball to start the drive, found Tyler Lockett for 19 yards, and drilled a strike to Graham for the winner.



Cowboys 33, Redskins 19

In Landover, Ezekiel Elliott ran for 150 yards and two touchdowns and the Cowboys took advantage of a blocked field goal return and three turnovers.

Playing in a driving rain-storm that made it difficult to hold onto the ball, let alone throw it, Dak Prescott completed 14 of his 22 passes for 143 yards as Dallas (4-3) heeded the message on Elliott's cleats to "Feed Zeke."

Patriots 21, Chargers 13

In Foxborough, Tom Brady passed for 333 yards and a touchdown for New England, and Stephen Gostkowski added four field goals.

It was the fourth straight victory for the Patriots (6-2). The loss snapped a three-game win streak for the Chargers.

Los Angeles (3-5) got on the board first when Melvin Gordon found a seam on the outside and rumbled down the sideline for an 87-yard touchdown run. But the rest of the game was marked by Los Angeles' mistakes and inability to move the ball offensively.

Bills 34, Raiders 4

In Orchard Park, rookie linebacker Matt Milano scored on a 40-yard fumble return on a rain-slick field, and the Bills forced four turnovers.

Tyrod Taylor threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Andre Holmes and also scored on a 1-yard run for Buffalo. LeSean McCoy had a season-best 151 yards rushing and also scored on a 48-yard run.

Falcons 25, Jets 20

In East Rutherford, Matt Ryan

threw two touchdown passes and the Falcons slipped and slid to victory on a soggy field.

Fumbled snaps, dropped passes and a big-time drenching at MetLife Stadium had both squads trying to find their footing, but the Falcons (4-3) steadied themselves just enough to snap a three-game skid—all to oth-

er AFC East teams.

Saints 20, Bears 12

In New Orleans, Drew Brees completed 23 of 28 for 299 yards against a Bears defense that ranked sixth in pass defense for the Saints' fifth straight win.

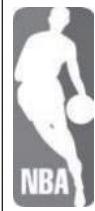
Mark Ingram and Alvin Kamara each ran for touchdowns for New Orleans (5-2).

Ingram finished with 99 yards from scrimmage, including 75 on the ground, but his two late fumbles kept the Bears in the game into the final minutes. Kamara had 76 yards from scrimmage, 48 receiving.

Bengals 24, Colts 23

In Cincinnati, lineman Carlos Dunlap batted Jacoby Brissett's pass into the air, grabbed

Hardaway, Knicks give Cavs 4th loss in 5 games



CLEVELAND (AP)

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 34 points, Kristaps Porzingis had 32 and the New York Knicks handed the Cleveland Cavaliers their fourth loss in five games, 114-95 on Sunday night.

Cleveland, which was blown out by Orlando and lost to Brooklyn during this stretch, fell below .500 despite cutting a 19-point deficit to six in the fourth quarter.

LeBron James downplayed the Cavaliers' problems following Saturday night's 123-101 loss in New Orleans, but the issues continued for the defending Eastern Conference champions.

New York, after winning its first game Friday over the Nets, led 89-71 late in the third quarter. Cleveland cut it to 94-88 on James' drive, forcing New York to call a timeout with 8:21 left.

Courtney Lee scored on a drive and hit a 3-pointer, helping the Knicks make it 103-88.

Pistons 115, Warriors 107

In Oakland, Avery Bradley

scooled 23 points, Reggie Jackson had 22 and the Pistons handed the defending NBA champion Warriors their second home loss of the season.

Tobias Harris hit a 3-pointer for Detroit with 1:27 remaining that all but sealed it after Kevin Durant fueled a late Warriors rally.

The Warriors lost only twice total at Oracle Arena in both their 2015 championship year and again in the 73-win season that followed, and then just five times at home on the way to another title this year.

Bucks 117, Hawks 106

In Atlanta, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 33 points, Khris Middleton had 27 and the Bucks cruised to the victory.

Antetokounmpo also had 11 rebounds and five assists. He went 14 for 21 from the field, scoring from all over the floor while helping Milwaukee to its third win in its last four games.

Dennis Schroder finished with 21 points and Taurean Prince had 17 for Atlanta, which has lost six straight.

Pacers 97, Spurs 94

In Indianapolis, Victor Oladipo made a 3-pointer with

about 10 seconds left, lifting Indiana to a rare win against San Antonio.

Oladipo finished with 23 points and five assists, and Domantas Sabonis set career highs with 22 points and 12 rebounds.

It was the third win for the Pacers in their last 20 games against the Spurs.

Hornets 120, Magic 113

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker had 34 points and 10 assists, and Charlotte snapped Orlando's three-game win streak.

Walker was 15 of 25 from the field.

Dwight Howard had a season-high 22 points against his former team, eight of those coming off alley-oop dunks—two on assists from Walker and two from Jeremy Lamb. Lamb had 20 points, marking his sixth straight game with at least 15 points while filling in for the injured Nic Batum.

Jonathan Simmons led the Magic with 27 points on 9-of-15 shooting. Evan Fournier added 23 points, and Terrence Ross and Aaron Gordon each had 17.

Wizards 110, Kings 83

In Sacramento, John Wall

San Francisco 49ers' C.J. Beathard (3) is sacked by Philadelphia Eagles' Brandon Graham (55) and Mychal Kendricks (95) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017, in Philadelphia. AP

the ball and ran 16 yards to the end zone for a game-turning touchdown.

The defensive end excels at swatting away passes—he led NFL linemen last season—and changed the game with his third career score.

The Bengals (3-4) couldn't protect Andy Dalton or get much pressure on Jacoby Brissett, who was sacked 10 times during a 27-0 loss to Jacksonville the previous week.

Panthers 17, Buccaneers 3

In Tampa Bay, Carolina's defense didn't allow a TD for the second straight week, helping the Panthers snap a two-game losing streak.

Cam Newton rebounded from a subpar performance in a 14-point road loss to the Bears, leading a 17-play, 82-yard TD drive that consumed more than eight minutes of the opening quarter. He then completed three passes to Christian McCaffrey to set up a field goal for a 10-0 half-time lead.

scored 11 of his 19 points in the first quarter and finished with nine assists, helping the Wizards to the road win.

Bradley Beal added 15 points on 6-of-11 shooting for Washington after being fined \$50,000 by the NBA earlier in the day for his role in a fight with Draymond Green of the Golden State Warriors on Friday.

The lopsided victory kept the Wizards out of the record books. Washington's first five games were decided by five points or fewer; no team had ever opened the season with six.

Nuggets 124, Nets 111

In New York, Jamal Murray scored 26 points, Nikola Jokic had 21 points and 14 rebounds, and Denver earned its second straight victory.

Wilson Chandler added 18 points for the Nuggets, and Emmanuel Mudiay finished with 15.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 22 points, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson had 18 points and Joe Harris tied his season high with 16 points for the Nets, who have lost two straight.

Denver went on a 22-4 run to begin the third quarter.

Team Sawi ends Silencer's streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Team Sawi halted the Silencer's run in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League after pulling off a 74-70 victory in their duel last



Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Errol Peredo scored 32 points in Team Sawi's upset, including 7 in the fourth quarter to snap Silence's seven-game winning streak.

Brendon Talania and Jerome Directo also helped Team Sawi's cause as the former added 20 markers and the latter made 5 of the squad's last 7 points.

Team Sawi stole the win

from the Silencer despite falling behind by a baker's dozen at the break, 34-47. Patrick Morales and Kelvin Fitial alternately knocked in triples for Silencer in the second quarter to give their squad a double-digit lead. They combined for

6 treys in that period before being held to 6 points in the third canto, allowing Team Sawi to battle back and grab the upper hand, 60-57.

Talania and Peredo joined forces in Team Sawi's recovery in the third canto, with the former logging 9 points and the latter chipping in 8. Peredo kept going in the fourth to lift Team Sawi to its third win in five games.

Meanwhile, Black Mamba eased past Vendetta in the curtain-raiser last Saturday, 100-82.

Black Mamba capitalized on the depleted Vendetta, controlling the match right from the get-go, 27-11. Vendetta had only six players when it faced Black Mamba and was clearly outplayed on both ends of the court to remain winless in five games.

Alex Lauron paced Black Mamba with his 24 points,

while Cris Lansang chipped in 19. Three other Black Mamba players also broke into double figures with White Capalad recording 17 and Edong Echavez and Marlo Ibanez posting 11 and 10, respectively.

Third Game

Team Sawi 74—Peredo 32, Talania 20, Jeralde 9, Directo 9, Galulu 4.

Silencer 70 — Fitial 26, Fernando 12, Morales 12, Estores 6, Culala 4, Sevilla 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-16, 34-47, 60-57, 74-70.

First Game

Black Mamba 100 — Lauron 24, Lansang 19, Capalad 17, Ibanez 11, Echavez 10, Gabaldon 9, Brien 5, Odicta 4.

Vendetta 82 — Dela Cruz 25, Pangelinan 21, Libuw 12, Sablan 10, Corpuz 6, Castro 6.

Scoring by quarters: 27-11, 55-33, 76-48, 100-82.

Ride for Her caps Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Close to 100 cyclists joined Saturday's second staging of the Ride for Her fun bike ride, which capped DFS Saipan's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The ride began in front of the T Galleria entrance and was divided into two distances—short course at 20 kilometers up to Pacific Islands Club-Saipan and back, and the long course at 40K to Hawaiian Rock entrance in Obyan and back to the starting line. The event was part of DFS Saipan's fundraising activities and proceeds were donated to the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce, who completed the short course with human resources manager Esther Ada, said they thought of the event since both of them were also avid cyclists.

"This is part of our employees engagement to the community,"

nity, part of our work in helping CCA and spread cancer awareness. Since Esther and I were into biking, we came up with an idea of having a one-day bike ride as a fundraising event," Aldan-Pierce told *Saipan Tribune*.

"DFS also had different activities in all of its locations. Like here on Saipan, we started it last year but only for DFS employees. This year we opened it up to the community to benefit everyone. We're hoping to make it a bigger event next year."

Aldan-Pierce added that they had pledged in organiz-

ing various activities that would help the community.

"We've been doing various activities for the community for a long time. We are for community engagement and have done a lot of things that benefited the people of the CNMI."

DFS Saipan's Breast Cancer Awareness Month began with a presentation by Drs. John Tudela and Phuong Luu to all DFS Saipan employees and was followed with the Pink Bake Sale before ending it with the Ride for Her.

The bake sale collected



JON PEREZ

DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce, fifth left, presents the check donation to Commonwealth Cancer Association officials led by program manager Juan L. Babauta, left, yesterday at the T Galleria office in Garapan.



DFS Saipan officials and employees join some of the participants of last Saturday's Ride for Her for a group photo in front of the T Galleria entrance in Garapan.

PALIK

From Page 28

"We [Retardo] were looking to catch up and play some bowling. Good thing we stayed. That's how it goes in double peoria, you'll be surprised that you won," said Palik moments after receiving his prizes.

Palik, a regular fixture in club and major golf tournaments on the island, just enjoyed the final day and even joked how terrible his round of golf was. He received a hand-carved latte stone-shaped trophy made of wood, \$300 cash, a golf bag, and a three-night stay in a deluxe room of the

Imperial Pacific Resort that is set to open in the third quarter of next year.

Seung Woo Kang came in second, while Jae Yeol Joong was third in the CNMI bracket. The Top 3 finishers for China, Japan, and Korea were also recognized at the banquet with the champion earning a round-trip ticket to Saipan, \$300, and a four-night stay at IPI's Grand Ocean Suite aside from the trophy.

Rong San Cui, Jin Nu Cai, and Kinping Cheng were the Top 3 winners from China, while Akira Ueda, Hiroyuki Kataoka, and Fumiuki Takasuka duplicated the feat in the Japan bracket. Mun Yong

Jung, Sukin Yang, and Kyung Rai Koh were the Korean podium finishers.

Eventual overall champion Changfeng Liu (No. 6, 2"), Sakuma Seiichi (No. 8, 3' 6"), Kiyoko Okayasu (No. 12, 4' 25"), and Seo Yeom Jeon (No. 15, 3' 1") were the closest to the pin winners at Kingfisher. Seiichi and Yunai Yamashita had the longest drive for the men's and women's.

Jong Bong Wong (No. 4), Myung Keun Jung (No. 6), Seung Woo Kang, and Shan Cui Rong made closest to the pin shots at Laolao, while Kang was also the longest drive winner in the men's side and Yuko Togawa earned the

ladies title.

Meanwhile, former CNMI Legislature member and current Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente bested 15 other golfers to rule the sponsor's tournament held at Laolao's west course. Yong Joo Kim came in at second, while Prescil Azarcon finished third.

Benavente was also the closest to the pin winner at No. 13 at 39' and 9", while Azarcon matched it at No. 7 at 16', aside from having the longest drive of 225 yards at No. 18. Absalon Waki Jr. (No. 3, 39") and Takashi Ishikawa (No. 17, 14' 5") were the other closest to the pin winners.

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Pimenta were the top female grapplers invited in the competition that offered a \$4,000 combined cash prize.

Barlaan scored an upset when she defeated world champ Alencar by referee's decision with the former's sweep attempt in their match earning her the judges' nod to become the inaugural Copa women's 55kg black belt champ. Barlaan now holds a 1-2 record against Alencar, avenging her consecutive losses to the Brazilian in the gold medal match of the Pan-American Games and the semifinal round of the world championships, which were both held this year.

More than 100 grapplers and BJJ practitioners joined the one-day event that had different weight divisions for Kids, Teens, Adult, and Masters age groups.

Competitions were also divided into the men's and women's classes in the Gi and No-Gi events and each group attracted local and international BJJ practitioners that included four of the top female grapplers in the world.

China's Emma Xiong, reigning world champion Talita Alencar of Brazil, Filipino-American Kristina Barlaan, and Brazil-born Tassia

MOC

From Page 28

bested 11 other teams. MOC 2 wrapped up the grueling race in 1:30:58, more than a minute ahead of BKC Men (1:32:06) and TTG Men (1:32:16). Other squads that finished the last event of the competition were SPC (1:32:45), AT Metgot (1:33:25), GT Men (1:35:05), Haggan LMS (1:35:42), MOC 1 (1:37:10), Ifit Men (1:40:33), Haggan LMS Masters (1:43:00), Tulos OPT 2 (1:43:29), and AT Adahi (1:44:08).

In the men's 1,000m finals, MOC 1 timed in at 5:49.3, just a little over a second behind champion BKC, which logged 5:48.1. AT Metgot (5:52.4), Tulos OPT 2 (5:56.2), and SPC (5:57.7) were the other qualifiers in the finals. In the preliminary and repechage, MOC 1 registered 5:40.6 (third) and 5:38.2 (first), respectively, while MOC 2's times in the first two races were 5:49.2 and 5:53.6.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	4	2	.667	—
Toronto	3	2	.600	½
Brooklyn	3	3	.500	1
Philadelphia	2	4	.333	2
New York	1	3	.250	2

Southeast Division

Orlando	4	1	.800	—
Washington	3	2	.600	1
Charlotte	2	3	.400	2
Miami	2	3	.400	2
Atlanta	1	5	.167	3½

Central Division

Detroit	4	2	.667	—
Milwaukee	3	2	.600	½
Cleveland	3	3	.500	1
Indiana	2	3	.400	1½
Chicago	1	4	.200	2½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	5	1	.833	—
San Antonio	4	1	.800	½
Houston	5	2	.714	½
New Orleans	3	3	.500	2
Dallas	1	6	.143	4½

Northwest Division

Portland	4	2	.667	—
Minnesota	3	3	.500	1
Utah	3	3	.500	1
Oklahoma City	3	3	.500	1
Denver	2	3	.400	1½

Pacific Division

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Marianas International Cup 2017 Welcome Reception

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC marketing director and tournament coordinator David Largent addresses attendees of last Friday's welcome reception for the Marianas International Cup 2017 at the lobby of Imperial Pacific Resort.



Local and IPI officials raise their glasses, wishing all golfers good luck in the two-day tournament.



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, left, delivers his opening statement.



From left, IPI marketing director David Largent, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, propose a toast to kick off the inaugural Marianas International Cup 2017.



Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog welcomes participants to the Imperial Pacific Resort-organized Marianas International Cup 2017.



Imperial Pacific International chairman Mark Brown, left, joins IPI officials and government and business leaders at the welcome reception for participants in the Marianas International Cup 2017.



Local officials, guests, and international amateur golfers attend Friday night's event.



Male and female cultural performers greet guests at the entrance of the Imperial Pacific Resort.



Astros rally past
Dodgers, near
World Series win

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Eagles move to
best record with
victory vs 49ers

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28 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MOC paddlers triumph

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Outrigger Club members paddle their way to the finish line of last Sunday's long distance course in the 19th Micronesia Cup held at Matapang Beach in Guam.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas Outrigger Club nearly swept the men's competition anew after ruling two categories in the 19th Micronesia Cup held over the weekend at Matapang Beach in Guam.

MOC paddlers, who made history in last year's event in Palau after prevailing in all three races in their division, topped the 500m finals and the long distance event and finished second in the 1,000m of the 2017 edition of the annual tournament.

"I'm very happy with our performance. While we didn't replicate last year's feat in terms of sweeping



all the events, we got first place in two races and second place in the 1,000-meter event. We had two crews this year and this helped in terms of each crew pushing each other. This was a group effort and I'm very proud of all of our guys and how they performed last weekend," coach Dino Manning said.

Joining Manning on the two MOC teams were Bobby Cruz, Vince Tudela, Billy Grow, Jose Quan, Ketsen "Jack" Kabiriel, Richard Salas, James Lee, Jovano Taitano, Mel Manibusan, Maverick Itibus, and Jason Tarkong.

In the 500m title race, MOC 1 posted 2:32.5 to beat Guam's AT Matgot Men (2:34.7), BKC Men (2:36.3), TTG Men (2:36.8), and MOC 2 (2:39.7). MOC 1 paddlers managed to reign supreme in the finale despite a fourth place finish in the preliminary. MOC 1 clocked in at 2:35.2 in the elimination, falling behind MOC 2 (2:35.0), Saipan Paddling Club (2:33.5), and AT Metgot Men (2:31.7). In the repechage, BKC Men and TTG Men's took the Top 2 honors after submitting 2:32.1 and 2:33.2, respectively, to advance to the finals. SPC missed the title race as it was just ranked third (2:35.0) in the repechage.

In the long course event, which had a distance of 10 miles, MOC 2

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Palik leads country winners

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Marianas Country Club operations manager Thomson Palik earlier planned to leave midway through the awarding ceremony of the Imperial Pacific Resort-organized Marianas International Cup 2017. Fortunately, he decided to stay as he was later named one of the winners of the inaugural competition.

Palik, who with colleague William Retardo were trying to catch

up with their company's bowling tournament, led the country champions of the event held at the Kingfisher Golf Links last Saturday and

at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort last Sunday. The awards banquet took place at Laolao's The Grill.

See PALIK on Page 26



JON PEREZ
The CNMI's Thomson Palik, center, joins Imperial Pacific International Holdings executive vice president Tao Xing, right, and marketing and public affairs director David Largent for a photo after receiving his awards in the Marianas International Cup 2017 last Sunday at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Cuki rules Copa Master class



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Trench Tech Gym owner Cuki Alvarez went home with the gold medal in the 10th Copa de Marianas Brazilian Jiu-jitsu Tournament held last Saturday at the Father Duenas Phoenix Center in Mangilao, Guam.

Alvarez defeated Norbert Mendiola of Team Steel Athletics-Spike 22 via points, 6-4, in the gold medal match of the Masters 37-up Purple belt absolute gi division. Alvarez faced Rich Flores, also of Team Steel Athletics, in his first match, winning by Samurai choke submission in over three minutes of their scheduled seven-minute bout to move into the title duel.

Mendiola, meanwhile, needed a

See CUKI on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cuki Alvarez celebrates his win in the Masters division of the 10th Copa de Marianas Brazilian Jiu-jitsu Tournament held last Saturday in Guam.

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